



Leaders Gather for Hague Nuclear Summit

Dutch King Willem Alexander, right, shakes hands with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev at Huis ten Bosch palace in The Hague Netherlands, Sunday March 23, 2014, one day ahead of the March 24 and 25 Nuclear Security Summit. (AP Photo/Inge van Mill, Pool)

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SATELLITES SPOT DEBRIS IN SEARCH FOR FLIGHT 370

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DEATH TOLL UP AMID PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA

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French satellites spot debris in search area for missing Malaysian flight 370

THOMAS FULLER
MICHAEL FORSYTHE
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PEARCE AIR FORCE BASE, Australia - The search for a missing Malaysia Airlines jet entered its third week Sunday, as data from a French satellite buttressed the theory that the plane might have fallen into the southern Indian Ocean, far off the west coast of Australia, where a multinational search for clues has expanded. The day ended

about the image or its precise location. Yet the announcement appears likely to reinforce a belief that the plane probably fell into the ocean far off of Western Australia after veering sharply from its planned route. Investigators say they believe military radar and satellite signals indicate the plane cut across Peninsular Malaysia, headed west over the Indian Ocean and then possibly headed south toward where Australia has

Indian Ocean were much clearer Sunday than the previous few days, allowing for full use of electronic and visual search tools. The search is focused on an area about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) southwest of Perth, and on Sunday eight aircraft, including a U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon, were to patrol that area. Two Chinese transport aircraft that arrived here Saturday will join the search operations Monday, Aus-



A handout photo of Royal Australian Air Force Sergeants Adam Roberts, left, and John Mancey launching a self locating data marker buoy from a C-130J Hercules aircraft into the southern Indian Ocean, part of continuing efforts to find missing Malaysian Airlines Flight 370. China, Japan and Britain are joining the search far off Australia's west coast.

(Justin Brown/The New York Times)

without any wreckage being found.

Australia and China have already released satellite images of blurry objects floating in the sea, and officials said those might be wreckage from the Boeing 777-200, which disappeared March 8 after leaving Kuala Lumpur for a routine night flight to Beijing. Now a French satellite has also spied objects in the southern Indian Ocean that might be related to the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, the Malaysian Ministry of Transport said in a statement.

France's ministry of foreign affairs said the possible debris was spotted using satellite-based radar but gave no other details

organized a search involving New Zealand and the United States. Britain, China and Japan have also sent military planes and ships to aid the hunt.

Flight Lt. Russel Adams, the pilot of an Australian P-3 military aircraft that spent more than 10 hours Sunday searching for debris, said weather conditions had deteriorated in parts of the search zone.

"There was cloud down to the surface," he told reporters minutes after landing at the base here, 50 kilometers north of the Western Australia city of Perth.

But the search area is vast, and a statement by the 7th Fleet of the U.S. Navy said that the overall weather conditions in the southern

tralian authorities said. Two Japanese patrol planes were also joining the effort. On Saturday, the Chinese government said one of its satellites had spotted an "unusual object" Tuesday in an area where Australia had already organized a search. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the country's planes and ships would try to reach the area and look for the whitish object, about 74 feet by 43 feet. It was observed about 65 nautical miles southwest of the spot where, two days earlier, another satellite had captured similar images of floating objects, which the Australian government said might be wreckage from Flight 370. □

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Cruise ship home after engine woes

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A Royal Caribbean cruise ship has arrived back in Puerto Rico after experiencing engine trouble at sea. Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. spokeswoman Cynthia Martinez says the Adventure of the Seas was on a seven-day trip when the crew noticed an oil leak during a stop in St. Kitts. Martinez says the crew erected booms to prevent additional oil from leaking and took one of the ship's three engines off line for the remainder of the 7-day journey. The ship with more than 3,400 passengers returned Sunday to San Juan. □

US donating patrol boats to Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — The U.S. government has donated three go-fast patrol boats to help Guyana's military battle gun smuggling, piracy and drug trafficking. Brig. Gen. Mark Phillips said this weekend that the \$1.7 million boats were donated as part of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. The U.S. program was launched in 2009 to combat drug trafficking and other transnational crimes. He said the country's military has received high-tech radio communication systems. Fishermen have complained about limited resources to fight piracy. □

Rocket launched from French Guiana

KOUROU, French Guiana (AP) — The European space consortium Arianespace has successfully launched a rocket with two communication satellites from the South American nation of French Guiana. During a late Saturday launch, an Ariane 5 carried a satellite for Luxembourg-based SES Astra. The other is owned by Spain's Hispasat. The launch was the Ariane 5 rocket's second flight so far this year. The rocket took off from the company's spaceport in French Guiana. Arianespace has shareholders from 10 European countries, including France's CNES space agency. □

Activist barred from Dominican flight

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Dominican immigration officers have barred a woman of Haitian descent who's fighting for Dominican citizenship from flying to the U.S. to meet with a human rights body. Pierre went to Santo Domingo's airport Sunday with lawyers headed for a U.S. meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which will discuss the citizenship issue at a Monday meeting in Washington. Dominican officers said her documents were not sufficient to allow her to travel and said she needs a passport. □

St. Maarten to extradite suspect to US

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten (AP) — Officials in the Dutch Caribbean say a judge has approved the extradition of a man arrested in St. Maarten who faces a drug charge in the United States. Rogelio Koieman was indicted in October 2013 in New York in an alleged conspiracy to smuggle cocaine from the Caribbean island of Curacao to the United States. He was arrested March 17 in St. Maarten. The Public Prosecutor's Office for the region announced this weekend that a judge has approved the extradition of the 46-year-old former police officer. □

World leaders gather for Hague nuclear summit

MIKE CORDER

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Nuclear terrorism is officially the main topic for world leaders at a two-day summit in the Netherlands starting Monday. In practice, the Ukraine crisis will likely overshadow those talks.

The Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague will form the backdrop for an emergency meeting of Group of Seven leaders on Russia's annexation of Crimea. It's a confrontation between Russia and the West reminiscent of the Cold War.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not attending, instead sending Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is expected to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the event's timing means world leaders can discuss Ukraine and Russia face to face.

"I think these multilateral summits are an excellent opportunity for world leaders to discuss bilaterally and also amongst smaller groups of countries various issues which are high on their minds," Rutte told The Associated Press.

But experts say frantic diplomacy focused on Ukraine shouldn't divert from the goal of better security of nuclear material.

"International attention can turn in a moment," said Deepti Choubey, a senior director at the non-government Nuclear Threat Initiative.

"The attentions of terrorists do not."

Delegations from 53 countries, including the leaders of the U.S., China and Japan, have started to arrive in the Hague. They will meet to negotiate on reducing and securing supplies, and keeping them out of terrorists' hands. The G-7 includes the U.S., Britain, Germany, Japan, France, Italy and Canada. Notable absentees from the summit are North Korea and Iran, excluded by mutual consent.

The summit is the third since U.S. President Barack

Obama launched the series in 2009 shortly after taking office, saying that reducing the risk of a terrorist attack with either a nuclear weapon or a "dirty bomb" was one of his most impor-

"incidents" were reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency last year alone.

Although they mainly were about material that temporarily went missing, "the

individual commitments by participants and conclude with a non-binding accord. Still, they already have reached tangible results.

The number of countries that possess enough highly

lomat who chaired negotiations before the summit, says a further large drop in numbers is unlikely.

But he says The Hague closing accord will likely include a new commitment



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte addresses the media, ahead of the March 24 and 25 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, on Sunday, March 23, 2014. The Nuclear Security Summit in the Hague will form the backdrop for an emergency meeting of Group of Seven leaders on Russia's annexation of Crimea. It's a confrontation between Russia and the West reminiscent of the Cold War.

(AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

tant international policy goals.

Rutte agreed, saying that while progress has been made, "it's not nearly enough."

He told reporters in The Hague that 146 nuclear

possibility of a serious incident continues to hang over us."

Because countries usually regard protecting nuclear weapons and facilities as a confidential sovereign matter, the summits center on

enriched uranium or plutonium to make a bomb has fallen steadily, from 39 before the first conference in Washington in 2010 to 25 at the start of the Hague summit.

Piet de Klerk, the Dutch dip-

to reduce plutonium stores. That is particularly relevant for Japan, which owns a large plutonium stockpile even as it reevaluates its use of nuclear power in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster. □

In China:

US first lady stresses freedom of speech

DIDI TANG

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) —

U.S. first lady Michelle Obama told students in China, which has some of the world's tightest restrictions on the Internet, that freedom of speech and unfettered access to information make countries stronger and should be universal rights.

Mrs. Obama was speaking Saturday at Peking University in Beijing during a week-long trip aimed at promoting educational exchanges between the U.S. and China. The trip also took on

political overtones when she was granted a previously unscheduled meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday.

Mrs. Obama said the free flow of information is crucial "because that's how we discover truth, that's how we learn what's really happening in our communities and our country and our world."

"And that's how we decide which values and ideas we think are best — by questioning and debating them vigorously, by listening to all sides of every argument

and by judging for ourselves," she said.

China blocks many foreign news sites and social media services such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Its army of censors routinely filters out information deemed offensive by the government and silences dissenting voices.

Though not likely to be well-received by the government, Mrs. Obama's remarks may not draw any strong protest because her speech and a subsequent moderated discussion among 50 students — sit-

ting in two identical conference rooms in Beijing and Palo Alto, Calif., but connected via modern technology — focused mainly on the value of educational exchanges. She told the audience that study abroad programs are "a vital part of America's foreign policy."

Fulbright scholar Eleanor Goodman from Harvard University's Fairbanks Center for East Asian Research said the first lady probably "felt a need to make that statement" on freedom of information. □

Eighteen missing in massive Washington mudslide



A house is seen destroyed in the mud on Highway 530 next to mile marker 37 on Sunday, March 23, 2014, the day after a giant landslide occurred near mile marker 37 near Oso, Washington. At least six homes have been washed away, with three people reported dead so far and at least eighteen missing. The nearby Stillaguamish River has been dammed up by 15-20 feet of debris as a result, creating more flooding concerns, as reported by KING 5 via the state hydrologist.

(AP Photo/The Seattle Times, Lindsey Wasson, Pool)

DONNA BLANKINSHIP

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Washington

(AP) — Eighteen people were unaccounted for a day after a terrifying wall of mud, trees and debris destroyed as many as 30 houses in rural northwestern Washington state and killed at least three people, authorities said Sunday. Because of the quicksand-like mud, authorities said it was too dangerous to send rescuers into the stricken area. Searchers instead flew over the one-square-mile (2.6-square-kilometer) mudslide in helicopters, looking for signs of life. Some of the missing may have been able to get out on their own, authorities said.

Authorities were also trying to determine how to get responders on the ground safely, Snohomish County Fire District 21 Chief Travis Hots said.

Officials described the mudslide as "a big wall of mud and debris" that blocked about one mile (1.6 kilometers) of State Route 530 near the town of Oso, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) north of Seattle. It was reported about 60 feet (18 meters) deep in some areas.

Authorities believe the slide was caused by groundwater saturation from recent heavy rainfall.

Several people — including an infant — were critically injured and as many as 30 houses were destroyed. One neighborhood "is not there anymore," Hots said. About 20 to 30 people have been displaced, Snohomish County Executive John Lovick said.

The number of missing could change because some people may have been in cars and on roads when the slide hit just before 11 a.m. Saturday, Hots said. The mud was so thick and deep that searchers turned back late Saturday after attempting to reach an area where voices were heard crying for help.

Rescuers couldn't hear any signs of life once they got closer, and the decision was made to retreat due to safety concerns,

Hots said.

Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee described the scene as "a square mile of total devastation" after flying over the disaster area Sunday. He assured families that everything was being done to find their missing loved ones.

"There is a full scale, 100 percent aggressive rescue going on right now," said Inslee, who proclaimed a state of emergency.

The slide blocked the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. With the water rising rapidly behind the debris, authorities worried about severe downstream flooding and issued an evacuation notice Saturday.

Snohomish County officials said Sunday that residents could return home during daylight hours, but that they'll likely re-issue the evacuation order Sunday night.

John Pennington, director of the Snohomish County Emergency Management Department, said there were concerns that the water could break downstream, as well as back up and flood areas upstream. Two people were killed at the scene, and one of the people who had been rescued died at a hospital.

Shari Ireton, a spokeswoman for the Snohomish County sheriff's office, said Sunday a total of eight people were injured.

A 6-month-old boy and an 81-year-old man remained in critical condition Sunday morning at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg said two men, ages 37 and 58, were in serious condition, while a 25-year-old woman was upgraded to satisfactory condition.

Bruce Blacker, who lives just west of the slide, doesn't know the whereabouts of six neighbors.

"It's a very close knit community," Blacker said as he waited at an Arlington roadblock before troopers let him through. There were almost 20 homes in the neighborhood that was destroyed, he said.

"I'm hoping for the best," Blacker said. □

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Oil spill cleanup impedes Texas ship channel

MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — A barge that once carried

he said.

Over 380 people — “and we’ve ordered more,” he said — plus a fleet of oil-re-

globs, along with a dark line of a sticky, oily substance, could be detected along the shoreline of the

Texas City dike, a 5-mile (8-kilometer)-long jetty that juts into Galveston Bay across from a tip of Galveston Island.

“That is the consistency of what the cargo looks like,” Jim Guidry, executive vice president of Houston-based Kirby Inland Marine Corp., the nation’s largest inland barge company and owner of the barge, said when the substance was described to him at a news conference. “We’re very concerned. We’re focused on cleaning up,” he said. He said the company was taking responsibility for the costs. The barge was headed to a shipyard.

Penoyer said at least one cruise ship, initially socked in by fog Saturday, was being allowed to end its trip and return to Galveston. □



Emergency crews work along a barge that spilled oil after it was struck by a ship near the Texas City Dike on Sunday, March 23, 2014, in Texas City. Dozens of ships are involved in clean-up efforts to remove up to 168,000 gallons of oil that make have spilled into Galveston Bay after a ship and barge collided near the Texas City dike on Saturday afternoon.

(AP Photo/Smiley N. Pool)

some 900,000 gallons (3.4 million liters) of heavy tar-like oil was cleared Sunday of its remaining contents, a day after the vessel collided with a ship in the busy Houston Ship Channel and leaked as much as a quarter of its cargo into the waterway. The channel, one of the world’s busiest waterways for moving petrochemicals, was shut for a second day with as many as 60 vessels backed up both trying to get out and get in.

Coast Guard officials said that up to 168,000 gallons (636,000 liters) were dumped and that oil from the ruptured barge had been detected 12 miles (19 kilometers) offshore in the Gulf of Mexico as of Sunday afternoon.

“This is a significant spill,” Capt. Brian Penoyer, commander of the Coast Guard at Houston-Galveston, said.

But he said the emptying of the barge Sunday, a process known as lightering as contents are transferred to other vessels, was equally significant.

“The remaining risk of pollution, we’ve removed that,”

trieving skimmers and other vessels deploying containment booms around environmentally sensitive areas worked to mitigate the damage.

Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Jim Ritterbusch and Associates in Chicago, said if the bottleneck of vessels in the Gulf eased in a day or so, there likely wouldn’t be much impact on fuel prices. A more prolonged backup could push up prices briefly, he suggested.

There was no timetable for a total reopening of the channel, which typically handles as many as 80 vessels daily.

Crews were skimming oil from the water and deployed some 60,000 feet (18,000 meters) of containment booms to protect environmentally sensitive areas, the Coast Guard said. The area is home to popular bird habitats, especially during the approaching migratory shorebird season.

Officials said they had scattered reports of wildlife damage but no specifics. Some black tar-like

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Vice President Biden notes progress in gay rights

IAN LOVETT

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LOS ANGELES - As hundreds of gay couples in Michigan flocked to clerks' offices Saturday - only to have a federal appeals court again halt same-sex marriages in the state hours later - Vice President Joe Biden made a forceful case for gay rights, both in the United States and worldwide. "The single most basic of all human

rights is the right to decide who you love," Biden said, adding that Americans in 20 years would look back with dismay at current discrimination against gays and lesbians in some states. "It's been a long struggle, and recently there's been some real progress, but there's so much left to do," he said. Biden has hinted that he may run for president again in 2016. And speaking to an annual

gathering of the Human Rights Campaign, an organization that works for gay, lesbian and transgender rights, Biden sought to underscore his own bona fides as a champion of gay men and lesbians, who make up an important donor base within the Democratic Party. He acclaimed the White House's decision not to defend the Defense of Marriage Act, which the Supreme Court struck

down last year, as well as the Obama administration's open denunciations of countries that persecute gay men and lesbians, calling support for gay rights and "inseparable part" of promoting human rights around the world. Other possible candidates - like Hillary Clinton and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York, who pushed through a gay marriage bill there - enjoy strong support

from gays and lesbians. Addressing the gay-rights activists assembled in the room, including a number of openly gay California politicians, Biden noted that in many states, employees could still be fired because of their sexual orientation. "It's bizarre," he said, adding that in 20 years, Americans would look back and ask, "How the hell could that have been allowed?" □

Health law birth control coverage before justices

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration and its opponents are renewing the Supreme Court battle over President Barack Obama's health care law in a case that pits the religious rights of employers against the rights of women to the birth control of their choice.

Two years after the entire law survived the justices' review by a single vote, the court is hearing arguments Tuesday in a religion-based challenge from family-owned companies that object to covering certain contraceptives in their health plans as part of the law's preventive care requirement. Health plans must offer a range of services at no extra charge, including all forms of birth control for women that have been approved by federal regulators.

Some of the nearly 50 businesses that have sued over covering contraceptives object to paying for all

forms of birth control. But the companies involved in the high court case are willing to cover most methods of contraception, as long

The largest company among them, Hobby Lobby Stores Inc., and the Green family that owns it, say their "religious beliefs

life after conception." Oklahoma City-based Hobby Lobby has more than 15,000 full-time employees in more than 600

bookstore chain.

The other company is Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. of East Earl, Pennsylvania, owned by a Mennonite family and employing 950 people in making wood cabinets.

The administration says a victory for the companies would prevent women who work for them from making decisions about birth control based on what's best for their health, not whether they can afford it. The government's supporters point to research showing that nearly one-third of women would change their contraceptive if cost were not an issue; a very effective means of birth control, the intrauterine device, can cost up to \$1,000.

One key issue before the justices is whether profit-making corporations may assert religious beliefs under the 1993 religious freedom law or the First Amendment provision guaranteeing Americans the right to believe and worship as they choose. □



Students from Pleasant Valley Christian School of Camarillo, Calif., visit the Supreme Court in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

as they can exclude drugs or devices that the government says may work after an egg has been fertilized.

prohibit them from providing health coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices that end human

crafts stores in 41 states. The Greens are evangelical Christians who also own Mardel, a Christian

Lawmaker: Officials believe Snowden working with Russia

BRIAN KNOWLTON

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - A top congressional intelligence official said Sunday that U.S. counterintelligence officials are virtually unanimous in believing that Edward J. Snowden is "under the influence of Russian intelligence services." That suggestion came from Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., chairman of the Intelligence Committee. Rogers had previously

raised the possibility that Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor, might be working for Russia, though the congressman has yet to offer any evidence. His assertions Sunday, however, were his most sweeping to date.

"Every counterintelligence official believes that," Rogers said on the NBC News program "Meet the Press." "You won't find one that doesn't believe

today he's under the influence of Russian intelligence services." For Rogers, the question now is when that supposed collaboration began: after Snowden arrived in Moscow from Hong Kong in late June, or before then, when he abruptly left Hawaii in May. "The more we look into this, I think the more you're going to find that that date gets further and further away from his sto-

ry," Rogers said. In a Jan. 19 appearance on the same NBC program, Rogers said some of Snowden's actions in absconding with secret NSA materials were "beyond his technical capabilities." But investigators have disclosed no evidence that Snowden's work, while under contract to the NSA, might have been directed by a foreign power. Ben Wizner, an American

Civil Liberties Union lawyer who advises Snowden, has vigorously rejected Rogers' contentions, noting that Snowden tried to gain asylum in several other countries before settling in Russia. There has been no public indication that investigators for the FBI, the NSA or the Pentagon have uncovered evidence that Snowden received assistance from any foreign intelligence service. □

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De Blasio strikes conciliatory tone on charter schools

JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ
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NEW YORK - He was sorry, he said, for failing to fully explain his decisions. He went out of his way to praise critics. And he took aim at a favorite punching bag - the news media - which he said had too often neglected important issues.

The comments were all part of a more conciliatory tone struck Sunday by Mayor Bill de Blasio, who is hoping to tamp down a controversy over charter schools that has engulfed his education agenda and dinged his popularity.

De Blasio has long been at odds with leaders of charter schools, which receive public dollars but operate independently of the city's school system. He has promised to make it more difficult for charter schools to find space in public school buildings, and last month, he canceled plans for three schools, placing about 200 students in limbo.

In a speech Sunday, de Blasio emphasized common ground, saying he shared a desire to "shake the foundations" of New York City's school system.

"What can unify us is that sense of urgency that we can't accept this status quo," de Blasio told a crowd at Riverside Church in Manhattan.

But for all his talk of camaraderie, de Blasio made clear he would not swerve from his underlying agenda: focusing attention and resources on traditional public schools, by expanding access to prekindergarten and after-school programs. "The answer is not to save a few of our children only," he said. "The answer is not to find an escape route that some can follow and others can't. The answer is to fix the entire system."

De Blasio criticized charter

schools for veering from what he said was their original purpose: to develop out-of-the-box strategies that could be shared with traditional public schools.

"The idea is not to create separation," he said. "The idea is to create a fullness, a totality, a completeness in which our charter schools help to uplift our traditional public schools."

Advocates for charter schools said they appreciated the mayor's call for collaboration but hoped he would follow through with concrete actions, including working to help the schools win more financing in Albany.

"If he does, we will be closer to being able to do our full part to ensure as soon as possible that every child has not just a good school but a great one," said James Merriman, chief executive of the New York City Charter School Center. De Blasio last month halted plans for three charter schools affiliated with a high-performing network known as Success Academy Charter Schools, citing concerns about losing space for special education programs.

The decision prompted weeks of protests and negative television advertisements, which de Blasio's aides have said are partly to blame for the mayor's sagging popularity in recent polls.

"We made some decisions in the last weeks, striving for fairness," de Blasio said Sunday.

"I didn't measure up when it came to explaining those decisions to the people of this city."


De Blasio promised to find a home for students at one of the affected schools - which he called a "good school doing good work" - though his aides said no site had yet been found. □



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, right, with actor Steve Buscemi, performs during the annual Inner Circle show, in New York, Saturday March 22, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)





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Snark and name-calling in the virtual playground

NICK BILTON

© 2014 New York Times
Silicon Valley sometimes feels like high school. It has its alpha types and its outcasts, its bullies and its bullied.

That, anyway, is one take-away from the recent flap over Secret, a 6-week-old social app that connects people anonymously. Secret has apparently put the Valley in touch with its inner 10th-grader and become an online schoolyard for all manner of gossips and trolls inside the technology industry. The blowback has been swift.

Veronica Belmont, a video host and technology writer, promptly hung up on the app.

"Deleted the app Secret," Belmont wrote in early Feb-

ruary.

Aaron Durand, a photographer, soon followed.

"It's not me, it's you," Durand tweeted a few days later. Many others followed suit.

"I don't need that kind of hate in my life," one entrepreneur told me. "It's like high school all over again." If this is what happens in the temples of American technology, think what will happen when Secret and similar apps hit real high schools and middle schools. Parents, you have been warned.

The founders of Secret, Chrys Bader-Wechseler and David Byttow, told me they saw the potential pitfalls and were trying to find ways to prevent cyberbullying over their app before



A post on Secret, a new social media app that connects people anonymously, talks about the snark from tech employees, March 21, 2014. Secret is the latest platform to confront the tendency of anonymous chat to provide a cover for bad behavior.

(Nick Bilton/The New York Times)

it reached youngsters. They said Secret was supposed to help people, not hurt them.

And yet the dangers of these types of apps are clear. Cyberbullying is bad enough when you know who is doing the bullying. It can be even worse when the source is cloaked by design. Last year, nine teenagers' suicides were linked to bullying on Ask.fm, a website that lets people ask questions and leave comments anonymously. The issue became so severe that Ask.fm hired Mishcon de Reya, a law firm based in London, to conduct an independent review of the site. That, in turn, prompted Ask.fm, which is based in Latvia, to create tools that give users the ability to turn off questions from anonymous users, block unwanted users and report offensive content.

Ilya Terebin, chief executive of Ask.fm, said the company was aware of the challenges but that young peo-

ple needed places to express their views privately.

"On one hand, we have to deliver a value for our users, which includes free speech and uninhibited communication," Terebin said. "On the other hand, we must ensure that the most vulnerable groups of our users receive sound support and protection."

But how can we offer people - adults and teenagers alike - anonymity without encouraging bad behavior? A lot of experiments are underway. A new social app called Facefeed lets people share photos, but it only allows people to discuss the photos in a private message. Shots, a social app for selfies, has left out a comment system altogether.

"With comments, kids can be humiliated in front of a large audience," said John Shahidi, a founder of Shots. Yik Yak, which is similar to Secret and lets people post anonymously to their friends, said last week that

it was banning middle and high school students and that it would disable the service around schools.

Yik Yak has reportedly been used to taunt students and make bomb threats, raising concern among school authorities. Susan Opferman, the principal of Webb Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta, Ga., recently warned parents in a letter: "Yik Yak posts can be especially vicious and hurtful, since there is no way to trace their source."

To reduce negative comments, Secret has said that it is adding features that detect when people's names are typed into messages and warn those who would include them to "think before they post." Users also have the ability to ban those who trash-talk others.

"The majority of the content on the app is positive and friendly," said Bader-Wechseler, who oversees product design at Secret. "We have to be realistic.

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Ukraine says top commander held after base stormed

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian air force commander is being held after his base in Crimea was stormed by pro-Russian forces, and the acting president called for his release Sunday.

Col. Yuliy Mamchur is the commander of the Belbek Air Force base near Sevastopol, which was taken over Saturday by forces who sent armored personnel carriers smashing through the base's walls and fired shots and stun grenades. One Ukrainian serviceman was reported wounded in the clash.

It was unclear if the forces, who didn't bear insignia, were Russian military or local pro-Russia militia.

Ukraine President Oleksandr Turchynov, in a statement, said Mamchur was "abducted" by the forces. He didn't specify where Mamchur is believed to be held.

However, prominent politician Vitali Klitschko said Sunday that Mamchur is being held by the Russian military in a jail in Sevastopol, the Crimean city that

is the base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

Klitschko was one of the leaders of the three months of protests in Ukraine that culminated in late February with President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing the country and interim authorities taking power before a May 25 presidential election. The protests were triggered by Yanukovich's decision to reject a deal for closer ties with the European Union and turn to Moscow instead.

Yanukovich's ouster was denounced by Russia and much of Ukraine's ethnic Russian population as a coup. Soon thereafter, Russian forces took control of Crimea and the region held a referendum to break off from Ukraine and join Russia.

Russia formally annexed Crimea last week, a move that Western countries say is illegitimate. The U.S. and the EU have imposed sanctions on Russia in the dispute, but Moscow appears unmoved.

On Sunday, the Russian Defense Ministry said the Russian flag was now flying over 189 military facilities

in Crimea. It didn't specify whether any Ukrainian military operations there remained under Ukrainian control.

At a Ukrainian marines base

into armored personnel carriers to take them to the base armory, but Mozgovoi said they hope to hold on to heavy weapons such as rocket-propelled gre-

about 5,000 people demonstrated in favor of holding a referendum on secession and absorption into Russia.

Eastern Ukraine is the coun-



Ukrainian soldiers celebrate a wedding inside their military base before Russian forces stormed the compound in Belbek, Crimea, March 22, 2014. The assault, which wounded at least one Ukrainian soldier, appeared to be an attempt by Russia to solidify its hold on Crimea after its formal annexation of the region. (Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

in Feodosia, troops were negotiating with Russian forces on handing over the base, Lt. Anatoly Mozgovoi told The Associated Press. The marines were loading 50-caliber machine guns

nades and cannon.

"I think from my personal opinion, the Russian Federation has enough weapons," he said.

In Donetsk, one of the major cities in eastern Ukraine,

try's industrial heartland and was Yanukovich's support base. Donetsk authorities on Friday formed a working group to hold a referendum, but no date for it has been set. □

France's municipal voting to test government's grip

ELAINE GANLEY

SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's far-right National Front conquered a symbolic northern town in Sunday's first round of municipal elections and led in some other cities, drawing calls by the governing left and rival right to stop the anti-immigration party's advance.

The governing Socialist Party, which was victorious in 2008 voting, was losing ground to the conservative party, reflecting the deep

unpopularity of President Francois Hollande who has failed to cure the struggling economy and unemployment rate hovering above 10 percent.

The National Front won an outright victory that made Steeve Briois mayor in Henin-Beaumont, party leader Marine Le Pen's blighted northern outpost — once a thriving coal mining town of 26,000 people. Briois took 50.26 percent of the vote, eliminating the need for a final round on March 30. □

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Turkish jet downs Syrian warplane near border

**ALBERT AJI
DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish fighter jets shot down a Syrian warplane Sunday after it violated the country's airspace, Turkey's prime minister said, in a move likely to ramp up tensions between two countries already deeply at odds over Syria's civil war.

A spokesman for Syria's military confirmed the incident, denouncing it as a "blatant aggression." The unnamed spokesman quoted on Syrian state TV said the plane was hit while pursuing gunmen near the border, and that the pilot safely ejected from the aircraft. Syria's official SANA news agency quoted the pilot as saying that he was shot down while 7 kilometers (5 miles) inside Syrian airspace.

Turkey, a NATO member that once enjoyed good ties with Syria, has emerged as one of the strongest critics of Syrian President Bashar Assad and is now one of the main backers of the 3-year-old rebellion against him. Hostilities

have flared along the border on several occasions, although the exchanges of fire have generally been brief and very limited in scope.

Despite protestations from Syria, there was little indication either side wanted the confrontation to escalate. In a statement, the Turkish military said a Syrian MiG-23 entered Turkey's airspace near the Hatay border zone after ignoring four warnings to turn back. One of two Turkish F-16s conducting a patrol in the area then fired a missile that struck the Syrian jet, which crashed 1,200 meters (yards) inside Syrian territory near the town of Kassab, the military said.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speaking at a rally in northwestern Turkey a week ahead of local elections, congratulated the military, and said the strike should serve as a warning against further incursions.

"If you violate our border, our slap will be hard," he said.

The Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV, which has

a network of reporters around Syria, reported that the pilot of the downed warplane landed in the village of Bahluliya in Latakia province. It gave no further

Turkish border on Friday. The rugged hills near the frontier have been engulfed in heavy fighting since then.

On Sunday, activists and

position fighters were coming from inside Turkey.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported clashes between troops and rebels



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, center, addresses supporters of his Justice and Development Party during a rally in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday, March 23, 2014. Turkish fighter jets shot down a Syrian warplane after it violated Turkey's airspace Sunday, Erdogan said, in a move likely to ramp up tensions between the two countries already deeply at odds over Syria's civil war.

(AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

details.

Syrian rebels launched an offensive in the Kassab area of Latakia near the

state media reported clashes near the town, and said both sides were dispatching reinforcements. Syrian officials said the op-

led by fighters from the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front near Kassab and a strategic hill known as "Observatory 45." □

China, Netherlands sign trade pacts

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — China and the Netherlands signed a trade pact Sunday pledging Dutch dairy expertise to help Chinese producers boost the quality and quantity of their milk.

The deal signed at a ceremony at Prime Minister Mark Rutte's official residence in The Hague is another step by China to rehabilitate the reputation of its dairy industry in the aftermath of tainted milk product scandals.

It was part of a raft of deals and memoranda of understanding inked on the second day of a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is in the Netherlands with a large trade delegation. In 2008, some Chinese milk brands were found to be tainted with the chemical melamine, which can cause kidney damage and other injuries. Some suppliers added it to fool protein tests on wa-

tered-down supplies. Imported milk products like baby formula still have a reputation for safety in China and command far higher prices than local brands. The Dutch government said in a statement that experts will help China increase its annual milk production to 40 billion kilograms (88 billion pounds) in coming years.

After his meeting with Rutte, Xi spoke to a business conference in the seaside resort town of Noordwijk before visiting the world famous Keukenhof flower garden, where his wife Peng Liyuan christened a new strain of tulip called the Cathay.

After his state visit ends Sunday, Xi is staying in the Netherlands to take part in the two-day Nuclear Security Summit starting Monday in The Hague before travelling to France, Germany and Belgium later in the week. □

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Militants launch social support in an Iraqi city

SAMEER N. YACOB
SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) —

Iraq's al-Qaida-inspired militants who took over the city of Fallujah are now trying to show they can run it, providing social services, policing the streets and implementing Shariah rulings in a bid to win the support of its Sunni Muslim population.

Gunmen in ski masks and Afghan-style tunics patrol the streets, but also perform a sort of community outreach. On a recent day, they were seen repairing damaged electricity poles and operating bulldozers to remove concrete blast walls and clear garbage. Others planted flowers in a highway median, and some fighters approached residents in the street and apologized for gaps in services, promising to address them. The Islamic militants have also made themselves the law in the city and aim to show they are acting to prevent crime. On Thursday, militants cut off the right hand of a man accused of robbing a mobile phone shop

and paraded him through Fallujah in the back of a pickup truck, forcing him to raise his stump to show people, according to witnesses in the city.

The push by the al-Qaida breakaway group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, marks an effort to bolster their standing in a community that remains under siege and exhausted by three months of clashes between the insurgents and government forces.

The group is trying to increase its appeal among the broader Sunni minority in Iraq, where resentment against the Shiite-led government runs deep — and it is trying to correct past mistakes. In the 2007, many major Sunni tribes turned against al-Qaida militants and formed U.S.-backed militias to battle the group, angered by its rampant killings during the height of the country's sectarian bloodbath following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Many in the Sunni community still bitterly hate the militants, and some tribes have joined government

forces in fighting the group in Fallujah.

Gauging whether the outreach is improving the group's image among Fallujah residents is diffi-

anonymity, fearing for their own safety.

"The ISIL people are providing security to Fallujah residents after policemen left," said Abu Abdullah,



An Iraqi woman walks past an anti-terrorism banner with a photo of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, in Baghdad, Iraq. Islamic militants who took over the Iraqi city of Fallujah are now trying to show they can run it, providing social services, policing the streets and implementing Shariah rulings in a bid to win the support of its Sunni Muslim population. Partial translation of Arabic on banner reads, "the media supports security forces efforts to capture terrorists and resume safety."

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

cult. Several residents who spoke to The Associated Press said they fear the militants and want police control to return. Some said they are happy with the group's activities, but all spoke on condition of

a shop owner who offered only his nickname. He said shoppers can reach his store more easily after fighters removed blast walls blocking the street. ISIL took control of Fallujah, one of the main cities

in Iraq's western, Sunni-dominated Anbar province, in late December. The turmoil began when security forces arrested a Sunni lawmaker sought on terrorism charges, then dismantled a year-old Sunni anti-government protest camp. Clashes erupted with security forces.

To ease tension, the government ordered the army to hand over security duties in Anbar to local police. But militants took the opportunity to drive out the police and overrun Fallujah, just 65 kilometers (40 miles) west of Baghdad, and parts of the nearby provincial capital, Ramadi. Nearly three months later, government forces have been unable to retake Fallujah. Government offices have been shut and a number of police stations have been demolished. Only schools and the directorates of health, electricity and the municipality remain operational, according to residents. Control rests with two groups: ISIL and the Military Council For Tribal Revolutionaries. □

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Death toll rises in Venezuela crisis

**ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Three more people died from Venezuela's political unrest as both supporters and opponents of President Nicolas Maduro took to the streets in new shows of force this weekend. A man identified as Jesus Orlando Labrador was killed by a gunshot in the chest Saturday in the southwestern city of Merida, Mayor Carlos Garcia told The Associated Press. He said it happened when a suspected group of hard-line government supporters began shooting at anti-Maduro activists after a peaceful protest march.

Vergara, who has headed the local government since Mayor Daniel Ceballos, an outspoken critic of the president, was arrested last week on charges of fomenting violence. Federal officials made no comment about the latest deaths. More than 30 people have been killed during five weeks of clashes between protesters and security forces who are sometimes joined by motorcycle-riding civilians loyal to Maduro's socialist government. Hundreds more have been wounded and arrested. The threat of violence didn't deter tens of thousands of anti-government activists from marching peacefully in

open the door to national reconciliation. "Maduro, I want to tell you, and those who are with you, if you don't step aside, you'll have millions of Venezuelans on the streets and beyond fighting for the political change we deserve," the letter said. In what's become a familiar coda to almost-daily demonstrations by the opposition, security forces fired tear gas and water cannons to drive off a few dozen students who tried to block a Caracas highway after most protesters went home. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Across town, Maduro addressed a much smaller rally called by loyalist stu-



A masked anti-government protester winds-up to throw a stone at Bolivarian National Police during clashes in Caracas, Venezuela. More people were reported dead in Venezuela over the weekend as a result of pro and anti-government protests. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Another victim, Argenis Hernandez, was shot in the stomach Friday by an angry motorist as he and other protesters manned a barricade on a highway outside Valencia, Venezuela's third-largest city and a major focal point of protests against Maduro. He died at a hospital before dawn Saturday, local officials said. In San Cristobal, the city where the wave of unrest began, bus driver Wilfredo Rey was mortally wounded Friday night after a group of Maduro supporters roared into an anti-government neighborhood on motorcycles and began firing indiscriminately, said Sergio

Caracas and other cities Saturday to demand an end to the use of force against dissents by what opponents have taken to calling Maduro's "dictatorship." The demonstrations came a little more than a month after the arrest of Leopoldo Lopez, a leading voice of the opposition who was charged with conspiracy and arson tied to the first deadly protests. A member of Lopez's Popular Will party, Carlos Vecchio, addressed the crowd in defiance of an arrest order while Lopez's wife, Lilian Tintori, read a letter penned from jail by her husband in which he calls on Maduro to resign and

dents to complain about arson attacks that have kept several universities shut for weeks. Maduro, the hand-picked successor of the late President Hugo Chavez, has denounced the protests as part of a U.S.-backed, "fascist" conspiracy to stir up violence and oust him just a few months after his party prevailed in nationwide municipal elections. "These Chuckys are direct descendants of the Nazis," Maduro told the cheering crowd, referring to the diabolical toy doll of Hollywood horror movie fame that has become his favorite term to taunt his opponents. □

Japan's biggest slum not on any maps or in film festival

**MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press
OSAKA, Japan (AP)**

— Japan's biggest slum is visible just blocks from bustling restaurants and shops in Osaka, the country's second-largest city. But it cannot be found on official maps. Nor did it appear in the recent Osaka Asian Film Festival, after the director of a new movie that is set in the area pulled it, accusing city organizers of censorship. Osaka officials asked Shingo Ota to remove scenes and lingo that identify the slum, on the grounds that it was insensitive to residents. "To me, what they were asking was a cover-up attempt to make this place non-existent," he said in a recent interview. This place is Kamagasaki, home to day laborers, the jobless and homeless, where one in three are on welfare. About 25,000 people live in this compact area, mostly single men who stay in free shelters or dozens of cheap dorms that charge as little as 800 yen (\$8) a night. The day starts early at the welfare-employment center, where hundreds of people line up for manual labor work, mostly with subcontractors of Japan's construction giants. Those not picked stroll the backstreets aimlessly, queue for free meals or resort to cheap alcohol. In the evening, the homeless line up at the center to get tickets for the shelters.

"I'm jobless, for months," said one 52-year-old resident who came to Kamagasaki after losing his home in the 1995 Kobe earthquake. He gambled away his monthly welfare money of 70,000 yen (\$700). "Now I'm doomed."

Ota's movie, "Fragile," tells the story of a TV assistant director who takes off from his job one day after conflicts with his girlfriend and his colleague. He heads to Kamagasaki to make a film about a teenage boy, and whether success and wealth are necessary for happiness. But he quickly falls into trouble, and his plan unravels. The full-length feature shows recognizable landmarks of the slum, such as a park known for both squatters and illegal garbage dumping and the center where men line up for jobs. It also shows the protagonist receiving an amphetamine injection from a drug dealer operating in the slum. Ota says Osaka officials wanted those scenes and others deleted, as well as the slang words "doya" (cheap accommodations) and "shabu" (stimulants).

Osaka official Kazumitsu Oue said the film festival organizers wanted to protect the area and its people from exposure to prejudice. "We felt that the film lacked consideration to the area and its people," he said. Ota says while living there to shoot the film for several weeks, his outsider's impression of the slum as a poor, dangerous place changed and he began to regard the community — also known by the nickname Airin or "loving neighborhood" — and its inhabitants with more compassion. The scenes city officials objected to are needed to portray the different faces of the town, he said.

The city provided a 600,000 yen (\$6,000) grant for the director on condition that it premieres at the Osaka film festival. Ota says he has offered to return the grant, but the city wanted him to keep it and not disclose details of the dispute to the media. The two sides are examining the dispute and seeking ways to explain it to the public.

So far it's only been shown at private screenings in Tokyo and Osaka. Ota, who directed two well-received documentaries previously, hopes to enter "Fragile" in the competition for this year's Cannes film festival. □



The Radisson Walks in Support of World Down Syndrome Day



PALM BEACH - More than 60 colleagues of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa joined the Walkathon for World Down Syndrome Day, on Friday, a day marking the ninth annual World Down Syndrome Day, and the third since it became officially recognized by the U.N.

Dressed in their black-colored "Yes, I Can" tee-shirts the Radisson colleagues walked with a spring in their step in honor of the occasion, from Fishermen's Huts to Arashi and back. The day also had a serious side, as organizers used the time to remind everyone that Down syndrome

does not make a person unhealthy, and that people with genetic conditions have the same right to joy, play and exercise besides health care and education, as others.

The day, local organizers report, creates a global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down syndrome.

We're happy to get behind any cause our staffers believe in, says General Manager Mark Frances, we join as a family, and a team for the walkathon cheering kids with Down syndrome on, and paying the contribution fee for every colleague participating, in appreciation of their involvement. The group was organized by the executive assistant manager Lourdes Geerman, enjoying the assistance of all resort departments. □



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Phoenix



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for

10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Tony and Cheryl Long and their son, Justin Long, Anthony Devino, Bill and Mimi Whitebone, Bernice and Carla Lancellotta, Karen Huels and Jane Cantwell. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the great weather

and beautiful beaches, the fabulous restaurants, shopping and casinos, and because Aruba and the Divi Phoenix feel like a second home, the people are like family to them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril, representing the Divi Phoenix. □



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PALM BEACH - Fresher than Fresh, is what you are served in the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located at De Palm Pier, between the RIU Palace Hotel and The Raddison Hotel. Mondays will no longer be just another Monday. No! It's Crazy Fish Monday at Bugaloe! Beautiful colorful platter of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables is what you will be served from Chef Hernandez' kitchen every Monday. Whether choosing Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Mon-

day every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to

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Every rallies for 1st tour win at Bay Hill

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

Matt Every always believed he would finally win on the PGA Tour. He couldn't have imagined it happening Sunday at Bay Hill.

Nine shots out of the lead going into the weekend, still four shots behind Adam Scott going into the final round, Every took advantage of a surprising collapse by the Masters champion and held on to the very end for a 2-under 70 to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Every made two bogeys in the last three holes, including a 4-foot par putt he missed on the 18th hole. That forced him to wait 10 excruciating minutes to see if Keegan Bradley could force a playoff. Bradley's 30-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole missed on the left side.

Cocky by nature, Every choked back tears when he realized he had won in his 92nd try as a professional.

"It's hard," he said, stopping to compose himself. "It's tough, man. You just never know if it's going to

happen. You get there so many times. It's nice to get it done."

Scott, in his final tournament before he defends his title at Augusta National, came undone.

Along with two quick bogeys to start his round, he didn't make a birdie over the final 14 holes. Nothing summed up his awful day like the par-5 16th, the easiest at Bay Hill. Every made a bogey to fall to 14-under par. Scott, playing behind him in the final group, had a 20-foot eagle putt on the 16th to tie for the lead. He ran it 4 feet by, and then missed that for a three-putt par.

Scott closed with a 76 to finish third. He had to win to reach No. 1 when he arrived at the Masters. Now, the No. 1 spot held by Tiger Woods for the last year will be up for grabs at Augusta among Woods, Scott and Henrik Stenson, who tied for fifth at Bay Hill.

Every grew up about 90 minutes away in Daytona Beach. This was the first PGA Tour event he attended as a kid, coming with his father to watch Mark Calcavecchia, his favorite player.



Matt Every kicks up his leg as he misses a putt on the 14th hole during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill, Sunday, March 23, 2014, in Orlando, Fla. Every went onto win the tournament.

Associated Press

After a wild final hour, Every donned the blue blazer on the 18th green and had an audience with The King — tournament host Arnold Palmer.

"I kept telling myself, 'Maybe it's going to be somewhere special,'" Every said about going for his first win. "This is really cool. I still can't believe it."

Every finished at 13-under 275, one shot ahead of Bradley, who needed two late birdies for a 72.

Until Sunday, about the only time Every made news on the PGA Tour was when he was arrested and jailed on a misdemeanor drug possession charge at the 2010 John Deere Classic after agents were called to a casino hotel because of a strong odor of marijuana coming from the room he was in.

Every paid the price with a three-month suspension that kept him from retaining his PGA Tour card. He once said earning his card back was his greatest achievement, though that sure takes a seat back to his win at Bay Hill.

Continued on page 21



Kyle Busch, center, celebrates, as the team drenches his wife, Samantha Busch, left, in victory circle after winning the NASCAR Sprint Series auto race in Fontana, Calif., Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press

Kyle Busch wins again at Fontana after wild finish

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

FONTANA, Calif. (AP) -- Kyle Busch won at Fontana for the second straight year Sunday, holding off Kyle Larson, Tony Stewart and his older brother Kurt on a frantic two-lap sprint to the finish. Kyle Busch capably blocked Larson and outlasted Stewart and Kurt Busch to win a wacky race featuring a track-record 35

lead changes and numerous tire problems. With his 29th career Sprint Cup victory in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, Kyle Busch is NASCAR's fifth winner in five races already this season. "Holy cow, what do you expect when you've got a green-white-checkered finish and everybody has to come down pit road and put four tires on?" Busch asked after his third ca-

reer win at Fontana. "That was 'Days of Thunder' right there. Unbelievable day." Jimmie Johnson was comfortably in front when he blew a tire with seven laps left, precipitating the wild finish. Jeff Gordon moved in front until Clint Bowyer spun with two laps to go, setting up an overtime finish.

Continued on page 22

Lowry scores 25 as Raptors beat Hawks 96-86

By IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

Lowry Leads Raptors Rally
Past Hawks

TORONTO (AP) -- A troubling fourth-quarter trend has emerged in the Atlanta Hawks' past two games, putting their playoff hopes under increased pressure. Kyle Lowry scored 25 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 13 points and 13 rebounds and the Toronto Raptors erased a 14-point deficit in the fourth to beat the Hawks 96-86 on Sunday.

"We were up the whole game, we had the momentum, and then we just kind of crumbled at the end," Hawks forward DeMarre Carroll said.

The late collapse brought back bad memories of Friday's 111-105 home loss to New Orleans, in which the Pelicans overturned a late Atlanta lead with a 42-point fourth quarter.

Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer called the back-to-

back defeats "very troubling," a sentiment shared by forward Paul Millsap.

"We just lose our focus down the stretch," Millsap said. "I feel like we had it for three quarters. Fourth quarter, another letdown."

Carroll and Millsap each scored 17 as the Hawks lost their second straight following a five-game winning streak. "We just weren't able to make enough plays down the stretch," Budenholzer said. "Our execution wasn't good enough and they made more plays."

Jeff Teague had 16 points and Pero Antic had 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which failed to win a third straight road game after losing its previous 10 away from home. The Hawks are 11-25 on the road.

DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points, Greivis Vasquez had 12 and Terrence Ross 10 as the Raptors used their biggest fourth-quarter comeback of the season to

avoid their first three-game home losing streak since dropping games against Brooklyn, Miami and Denver between Nov. 26 and Dec. 1.

Toronto, which leads the Atlantic Division and holds the third seed in the Eastern Conference, fell in double overtime to Oklahoma City on Friday and lost to Phoenix last Sunday.

But Toronto roared back with a 13-0 run including 3-pointers from DeRozan, Lowry and Nando DeColo, his first field goal since joining the Raptors in a Feb. 20 trade with San Antonio, making it 74-73 at 7:32.

Teague stopped Toronto's run with a three-point play and, after a basket by Chuck Hayes, Shelvin Mack scored to make it 79-75. Ross was fouled on a jump shot but missed his free throw, which Amir Johnson tipped in to tie it at 79 with 5:21 left.

A 3 by Millsap gave the



Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) scores past Atlanta Hawks teammates Shelvin Mack (8) and Jeff Teague, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto on Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Hawks an 84-81 lead at 3:52, but Lowry and DeRozan each hit jump shots and Valanciunas made a pair of free throws as Toronto took an 87-84 lead with 2:01 remaining.

DeRozan pushed the lead to five with two free throws before Mack answered

with a jumper, but Lowry sealed it by hitting a jump hook, then stealing Antic's inbounds pass and streaking in for a fast-break layup, making it 93-86 with 39 seconds left.

Lowry capped it with his third 3 of the game with 11 seconds remaining.



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Dodgers beat Diamondbacks 7-5, win both Down Under

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

SYDNEY (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers felt right at home in their season-opening series Down Under.

Yasiel Puig had three hits and two RBIs to back a scoreless outing by Hyun-Jin Ryu and the Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-5 at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

Dee Gordon and Juan Uribe also had three hits for the Dodgers, who finished with 13 in beating Arizona starter Trevor Cahill for the first time.

Sunday's victory came after a 3-1 Dodgers win behind ace Clayton Kershaw in the opener Saturday.

Cahill (0-1) came in 6-0 with a 2.01 ERA in 10 career starts against the Dodgers, but left in the fifth trailing 3-0. He gave up eight hits with just one strikeout and was charged with five runs and four walks in four innings.

The Diamondbacks made three errors, two by catcher Miguel Montero.

After trailing 7-0, Arizona scored once in the eighth



Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, right, is tagged out by the Arizona Diamondbacks' Aaron Hill during a run down in the second game of the two-game Major League Baseball opening series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks at the Sydney Cricket ground in Sydney, Sunday, March 23, 2014. The Dodgers won the game 7-5 and the series 2-0.

Associated Press

and four times in the ninth, including Mark Trumbo's two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen with two outs. Jansen struck out Gerardo Parra to end a game that featured 14 pitchers and lasted a minute more

than 4 hours.

"The first one I really enjoyed actually, this one not quite as much," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said of Arizona's late-inning rally.

"It was good to get it, and

at the end of the day it's a win. But it's a kind of frustrating one. We walked seven guys the last four innings and we really gave them the chance to get back in the game."

Diamondbacks manager Kirk Gibson wasn't pleased with his team's struggles.

"He didn't command the (strike) zone very good at all," Gibson said of Cahill. "Not many strikes ... it was kind of hard to execute a game plan and get the ball where we need to get it."

"We also walked a gazillion today, hit two guys. You can't give a good team like the Dodgers that kind of opportunity. We made some bobbles in the field which is uncharacteristic and again it's a hard formula to try and beat these guys."

Beginning his second season in the majors, Ryu (1-0)

held the Diamondbacks to two hits in five shutout innings. He struck out five and walked one. The left-hander had a strong rookie season last year, going 14-8 with a 3.00 ERA in 30 starts after seven seasons in South Korea.

"Overall, I'm really satisfied," Ryu said through an interpreter. "My fastball was in good command and fortunately my teammates were able to support me early in the game and give me a lot of confidence."

Trumbo also had an RBI single in the eighth, his first hit for the Diamondbacks. Martin Prado had a two-run single in the ninth.

Puig, who was 0 for 5 with three strikeouts in the opener, also made a nice running catch in right field on a liner off the bat of Aaron Hill with the bases loaded to end the Arizona seventh. These were the first regular-season major league games played in Australia. The 162-year-old cricket ground was turned into a baseball park over two weeks, and nearly 80,000 fans attended the two games.

Paul Goldschmidt's first-inning single for Arizona extended his hitting streak to 21 games dating to Sept. 10 last season, the longest active streak in the majors. "It was a great trip here, other than we lost twice," Gibson said. "There were a lot of Diamondbacks fans here and it's just too bad we couldn't have won a game for them."

"Credit to the Dodgers, they executed well, better than we did. We're not happy we lost twice here, but it's a 162-game season."

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Andy Murray reaches 4th round at Sony Open

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer
KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Andy Murray won Sunday while Ivan Lendl watched as a fan rather than as a coach.

With Lendl among the stadium spectators, Murray advanced to the fourth round at the Sony Open by beating Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 6-1. The tournament is the first for the two-time Key Biscayne champion since he parted with Lendl, who coached Murray for two years and helped him become a Grand Slam champion.

"We're back together again. It was only a four- or five-day split," Murray joked. "No, it's a shame he won't be watching many more of my matches from the stands."

Roger Federer also advanced easily, beating qualifier Thiemo de Bakker 6-3, 6-3. Venus Williams committed 44 unforced errors but had 11 aces and edged wild-card Casey Dellacqua 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Lendl helped Murray win Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, an Olympic gold medal and last year's Key Biscayne title. Lendl said he decided to step down because he wanted to concentrate on other projects, among them playing more senior events.

Murray was unhappy about the split and said Lendl will

be difficult to replace. Before their partnership, Murray was 0-4 in Grand Slam finals — although he did win Key Biscayne in 2009.

The No. 6-seeded Murray moved one round closer to a potential quarterfinal against Novak Djokovic. Murray returned well and made the most of his chances at the net to improve to 9-0 against Lopez, seeded 32nd.

The victory came on a sunny, 85-degree afternoon. Murray confirmed it was hot, although the Scotsman — who lives part-time in nearby Miami — said Fahrenheit temperatures give him pause because he's more familiar with Celsius. "I started using Fahrenheit a bit more, but I don't know the conversion," he said. "If I speak to someone back home and they say, 'How hot was it?,' and I say, 'It's 85 today,' and they say, 'What is that?,' I have absolutely no idea."

Murray's next opponent will be No. 11-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who outlasted Marcos Baghdatis 4-6, 7-6 (6), 7-5. Tsonga rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the tiebreaker.

Federer didn't face a break point against de Bakker, and after two matches he has lost only 10 points in 20 service games. Federer said a new racket he's using gives him more power, especially on his first serve.



Andy Murray, of Great Britain, returns to Feliciano Lopez, of Spain, at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press

"Right now I'm doing a good job," he said. "But then again, this wasn't Andre Agassi on the other side, or Djokovic. It's just important for me to keep that up and remind myself it's going well so far."

Federer's latest win gave him 43 career victories at Key Biscayne, one more than Pete Sampras and second in men's history only to Andre Agassi's 61. Williams, a three-time champion seeded No. 29, has won 54 matches on the island. She considers the tournament her home event, because she lives an hour away in Palm Beach

Gardens.

Her latest victory took 2½ hours. "I love being here," she said. "I wanted to play Monday."

Williams' next opponent will be No. 10 Dominika Cibulkova, who beat No. 22 Alice Cornet 7-6 (6), 6-1.

Li Na overcame three set points to overtake American Madison Keys 7-6 (3), 6-3. The No. 2-seeded Li, the reigning Australian Open champion, won even though she had seven double-faults and was broken four times.

Keys failed to convert her set points serving at 5-3 in the first set. She also squan-

dered a lead in the second set, when three times she was within a point of going up 3-love against Li.

"She's No. 2 in the world for a reason," Keys said. "She just won Australian Open for a reason. She's a great player. I played well at times, and she just played the bigger points really, really well."

Monday's schedule includes six-time champion Serena Williams against fellow American CoCo Vandeweghe, who rallied past Samantha Stosur 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 in a match that ended at 2:29 a.m. Sunday. □

Bay Hill

Continued from page 18

Along with getting into the Masters, Every qualifies for two World Golf Championships and the PGA Championship.

Jason Kokrak closed with a 73 to finish alone in fourth. Erik Compton, twice a recipient of a heart transplant, shot 69 and tied for fifth with Stenson and Francesco Molinari of Italy (73). As big of a win as it was for Every,

it was crushing for Scott. His long putter staked him a big lead at the halfway point, and it hurt over the



final two rounds, particularly on Sunday. The longest putt he made all day was from 12 feet for par on the 15th hole, and he missed

five putts inside 10 feet. He had talked Saturday night about being in the prime of his career and needing to capitalize on

chances. Instead, the 33-year-old Australian let another one get away. Scott had a three-shot lead over Bradley to start the final round and had another sloppy start.

This time, however, he didn't recover.

He went bunker-to-bunker for bogey on the opening hole and pulled his 3-wood off the tee and into the water for another bogey on No. 3. He appeared to steady himself with an up-and-down birdie on the par-5 fourth.

He didn't make another birdie the rest of the way. Every seized control after one of his worst shots of the day, and one of his best

breaks.

He pulled his tee shot on No. 9 toward the trees and the out-of-bounds stakes, only for the ball to roll along the cart path for a slight opening through the trees. He hit that 15 feet below the hole for birdie, and then tied Scott for the lead with a 20-foot birdie putt on the next hole.

And when Every made an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-5 12th, it was the first time since mid-morning Thursday that someone other than Scott was not atop the leaderboard. And it only got better for Every — and worse for Scott — the rest of the way. □

Kristoff outsprints Fabian Cancellara in Milan-San Remo

SAN REMO, Italy (AP) — Alexander Kristoff sprinted to victory in the Milan-San Remo classic on Sunday, edging out 2008 winner Fabian Cancellara on a wet and rainy course for the biggest win of his career. Kristoff pulled away in the closing meters to win the 294-kilometer (183 mile) race in 6 hours, 55 minutes, 56 seconds and become the first Norwegian to triumph in the one-day race. Cancellara finished on the podium for the fourth successive year, while Ben Swift edged out sprint specialist and 2009 winner Mark Cavendish for third place.

"It was a fantastic victory," Kristoff said. "I didn't believe it when I crossed the line, I was only hoping for a top 10 finish." Vincenzo Nibali had seemed on course for victory after attacking on the



Norway's Alexander Kristoff celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the Milan-San Remo cycling race, in Sanremo, Italy, Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press

penultimate climb of the day with 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) remaining. But the Giro d'Italia champion was

swallowed back up by the chasing pack with 8K (5 miles) to go. There was an early break

of seven riders who built a lead of more than 10 minutes. But they dropped off one by one and by the

time Nibali attacked on the ascent up the Cipressa there was only a two-man group up front. The Italian overtook them on the descent and built an advantage of 49 seconds. But the peloton began upping the pace and cut the gap to 12 seconds at the start of the final climb up the Poggio. Cavendish had stayed the pace but tired in the closing 100 meters and eventually finished fifth, behind Juan Jose Lobato.

Another pre-race favorite, Peter Sagan, was 10th, just behind defending champion Gerald Ciolek. Many riders struggled with the rain and cold temperatures, with Kristoff's Katusha teammate Luca Paolini — who served as a valuable lead-out man later — even resorting to pouring hot tea on his freezing fingers. □

Motor sports

Continued from page 18

Gordon was hoping to finish on old tires when Bowyer spun, but then elected to pit along with most of the leaders. Kurt Busch gambled with just two tires, allowing him to restart in second, but his younger brother came up from fifth in the final two laps to win. "I came off the fourth turn in disbelief that we won this thing, because we were mediocre all day," Kyle Busch said. "It was really weird for us, not a race that we're typically used to. But now there's a load off your shoulders that you can go out the rest of the season and race the way you want to." He barely held off Larson, the 21-year-old rookie who held off Kyle Busch on Saturday to win the Nationwide race. "I don't know where everybody went, but I somehow ended up in second and it entered my mind, 'We might sweep the weekend,'" Larson said. He had to settle for the best finish of his Sprint Cup career in the No. 42 Chevrolet for Chip Ganassi Rac-

ing. Kyle Busch, who went to Larson's car Saturday to congratulate him on his Nationwide win, pointed out his window at Larson after Sunday's finish, pumping his fist in approval. "What a shoe that boy is," Kyle Busch said of Larson. Several teams had serious tire problems on this weathered 2-mile oval, with multiple flats and cautions for various problems throughout the hot afternoon. The problems likely were the latest effect of NASCAR's new aero rules, which are producing higher speeds that lead to extra stress on the tires — particularly on the bumpy asphalt on Fontana's back straightaway, which already wears out tires aggressively. Those problems might frustrate pit crews, but they can also lead to phenomenal racing, as the sellout crowd on its feet for the finish could attest. "By no means is this a problem for Goodyear," Kurt Busch said, referring to NASCAR's tire manufacturer. "It's just a thumbs-up for NASCAR for allowing teams to get aggressive in all areas."



Kyle Busch (18) crosses the finish line to win the NASCAR Sprint Series auto race in Fontana, Calif., Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press

The intrigue and weirdness started early on at Fontana — which somehow seemed appropriate for a race in which the Muppets' Gonzo told the drivers to start their engines. Several drivers complained during an early pit stop that the red light was on, indicating pit road was closed. Gordon, Bowyer and Brad Keselowski did not pit because of the red light, and all were adamant NASCAR needed to correct their position in the running order. It's the second consecu-

tive week an issue with the caution light affected the race: At Bristol last Sunday, someone in the flagstand leaned on the button that turned the caution lights on right before Carl Edwards took the white flag. Rain then began to fall heavily, and the race could not be resumed, so Edwards won under caution. Edwards finished 10th at Fontana and stayed one point ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr., who finished 12th, for the overall points lead. Fontana didn't get a re-

peat of last year's exciting duel between Denny Hamlin and Joey Logano, the unfriendly rivals who crashed into each other on the final lap while racing for the win. Hamlin was a last-minute scratch with a sinus infection, depriving him of the self-described chance for redemption after getting airlifted away from the track last year with a broken vertebra. Sam Hornish Jr. took his place in the No. 11 JGR Toyota and finished 17th. □

U.S. police phone-tracking accords often kept secret

JACK GILLUM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police across the U.S. may be intercepting phone calls or text messages to find suspects using a technology tool known as Stingray. But they are refusing to turn over details about its use or heavily censoring files when they do.

Police say Stingray, a suitcase-sized device that pretends it is a cell tower, is useful for catching criminals, but that is about all they will say.

For example, they will not disclose details about contracts with the device's manufacturer, Harris Corp., insisting they are protecting both police tactics and commercial secrets. The secrecy — at times imposed by non-disclosure agreements signed by police — is pitting obligations under private contracts against government transparency laws.

Even in states with strong open records laws, including Florida and Arizona, little is known about police use of Stingray and any rules governing it.

A Stingray device tricks all cellphones in an area into electronically identifying themselves and transmitting data to police rather than the nearest phone company's tower. Because



documents about Stingrays are regularly censored, it's not immediately clear what information the devices could capture, such as the contents of phone conversations and text messages, what they routinely do capture based on how they're configured or how often they might be used. In one of the rare court cases involving the device, the FBI acknowledged in 2011 that so-called cell site simulator technology affects innocent users in the area where it's operated, not just a suspect police are seeking.

Earlier this month, journalist

Beau Hodai and the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona sued the Tucson Police Department, alleging in court documents that police did not comply with the state's public-records law because they did not fully disclose Stingray-related records and allowed Harris Corp. to dictate what information could be made public.

Disclosures about surveillance programs run by the federal National Security Agency have driven a sustained debate since last summer on the balance between privacy and gov-

ernment intrusion. Classified NSA documents, leaked to news organizations, showed the NSA was collecting telephone records, emails and video chats of millions of Americans who were not suspected of crimes.

That debate has extended to state and local governments. News organizations in Palm Springs, California; Tallahassee, Florida; Sacramento, California, and Pittsburgh are among those that have been denied records about Stingrays or Stingray-like devices, including details of contracts

that Harris has with government agencies.

In a response to a records request from the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper about Florida's use of cell-tracking technology, the state's top police agency provided a four-page, heavily censored document signed by a police investigator. The newspaper reported that the document referred to guidelines concerning the purchase of items and sought the department's agreement to the "provisions/content of the Non-Disclosure Agreement."

The Desert Sun of Palm Springs made a similar request to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, which said it had to maintain secrecy even though the newspaper found information online about cell site simulators. And in Sacramento, the local sheriff's office told a TV station it would "be inappropriate for us to comment about any agency that may be using the technology" in light of a Harris non-disclosure agreement. Many of the requests were part of an effort to investigate the devices by Gannett Co. Inc., which publishes USA Today and owns other newspapers and television stations around the country.

Satellites searching for missing plane have limits

HOLBROOK MOHR

Associated Press

The satellites searching vast stretches of ocean for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane are not the stuff of Hollywood.

They can scan large areas for relatively small objects, but they have limitations.

That's why experts say images taken by a private-sector satellite company and released by the Australian government provide a clue that needs investigating, but they aren't conclusive evidence that the objects in the images are from the missing Boeing 777.

To the untrained eye, the

two objects might look like large, white-capped waves in the open ocean. To the eyes of experts, they were sufficiently compelling to send four airplanes to search an area of the southern Indian Ocean.

"You know how they say a picture is worth 1,000 words? Well, in satellite imagery, the picture's only worth 500. The rest has to come from analysis," said Sean O'Connor, an imagery analyst with IHS Janes, a firm that specializes in the analysis of defense-related matters.

"It would be very nice if you could see a whole

wing floating there, then you could say, 'OK that's an airplane,'" O'Connor said. "When you're looking at something like this, you can't tell what it is."

One of the objects was almost 80 feet (24 meters) long and the other was about 15 feet (5 meters) long, according to John Young, manager of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's emergency response division. The images were taken March 16, but Australian officials say it took time to analyze them before they were released. Young called it "the best lead we have right now."

The search was expected

to resume at daylight in the area, about 7 p.m. Eastern time in the U.S.

The images came from a DigitalGlobe commercial satellite that scans the Earth from the north to south, said Tim Brown, a satellite imagery expert at GlobalSecurity.org in Alexandria, Va.

These kinds of satellites can look left to right, but the further they look to the side, the lower quality the images will be.

There are other limitations. Because of their orbits, they can only scan a specific section of the Earth at certain times each day, much like the sun is only overhead

part of the day.

Commercial satellites may be able to pick up stripes on a parking lot by using interpretation software and the contrast of the colors of the stripes and asphalt, but a similar size object in the ocean could easily be missed, said Joseph Bermudez Jr., chief analytics officer and co-founder All-Source Analysis, which specializes in satellite imagery. They aren't like those in the movies that can, say, read a car's license plate from space.

And the images are not going to be as clear as those taken by a drone, which is much closer to the Earth.

Taking bids for the Presidential limo

ERIC TINGWALL

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The Secret Service is shopping for a new car - something durable and roomy, and unlike anything else on the road.

The commander in chief's security detail this month began soliciting bids - officially, by publishing a Federal Business Opportunity - for a presidential limousine to replace the 5-year-old Cadillac now in service. The company that wins the contract will be responsible for developing the next-generation vehicle, including integrating the armor and fabricating the prototype, with an option to actually produce the car (or cars).

"It's an honor we've had to participate in this part of history," a Cadillac spokesman, David Caldwell, said. Automakers are reluctant to publicly acknowledge their interest in the contract because of the secrecy of the project and the competitiveness of the bidding. "When it comes to contracts that we haven't been awarded, I don't know anything, and I won't know anything," Caldwell said.

Cadillac's recent history suggests that it may have the best chance of landing the contract, but Ford Motor's Lincoln brand held a similarly lengthy tenure as the preferred provider of presidential limousines

A Tesla spokeswoman declined to comment when asked if the automaker was interested in bidding on the job. It seems unlikely that even if Tesla were awarded the contract the company's battery-electric powertrain technology would be deemed suitable for presidential duty.

In 2010, President Barack Obama told ABC News that the Secret Service had rebuffed his request for a hybrid limo because of sluggish acceleration. Not only would the large, heavy battery packs prove difficult to package and protect, an electric limo would also add the logistical challenge of maintaining charge levels while



An undated handout photo illustration of the the 2009 Cadillac presidential limousine known as the Beast, which debuted during President Barack Obama's inaugural parade. The government is soliciting bids for a replacement. (General Motors via The New York Times)

While civilian buyers can make their choice from hundreds of new models, the Secret Service is restricted to working with just a handful of automakers. The contract can be awarded only to a domestic automaker whose headquarters are in the United States.

That leaves Chrysler, Ford, General Motors and Tesla as the potential applicants. As the president's official and highly visible transportation during parades, motorcade processions and foreign visits, the presidential limousine puts one automaker on a very large world stage.

Cadillac, a GM brand, has placed its wreath-and-crest badge on the president's ride for the past 21 years.

from the 1940s through the 1970s.

Now, as Lincoln struggles to assert itself among foreign rivals, building the president's car could be either a major publicity coup or a distraction from more pressing business matters. In January, Chrysler joined with Fiat of Italy under a holding company headquartered in the Netherlands, yet it appears that the U.S. subsidiary is still considered eligible to build the limo. While the Secret Service wouldn't confirm if the company was qualified to apply, a Chrysler representative said that the company was notified about the opportunity by the Secret Service, adding that executives had not decided whether the company would bid.

traveling abroad.

Until 1993, the president's limousines were derived from production models. Today's Cadillac One is built specifically for its task. Known as the Beast and said to weigh from 5 to 10 tons, its custom design draws parts from production models, including headlights from the Escalade SUV and taillights from the STS sedan. The Beast rides on a truck chassis, yet it wears a body that resembles the Cadillac DTS, a large sedan discontinued in 2011. The modifications for security are extensive. First reporting for duty at Obama's inauguration on Jan. 20, 2009, the limo uses bulletproof and blast-proof glass that is as much as 5 inches thick and armor that is up to 8 inches thick. □

Asias tycoon sells stake for sprawling retail unit



Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing, chairman of Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., gestures during a press conference in Hong Kong. Li, one of Asia's richest men, has called off plans for a Hong Kong and London listing of his retail business after striking a deal to sell a stake in the unit for nearly \$6 billion. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

NEIL GOUGH

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HONG KONG - Li Ka-shing, one of Asia's richest men, has called off plans for a Hong Kong and London listing of his retail business after striking a deal this weekend to sell a stake in the unit to a Singaporean state investment company for nearly \$6 billion.

Li's company, Hutchison Whampoa, announced it would sell a 25 percent stake in A.S. Watson, which operates a global network of more than 10,000 supermarkets and health and beauty stores, to Temasek Holdings of Singapore for 44 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$5.7 billion).

The deal values Watson at a hefty 177 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$23 billion). Hutchison said it would use 70 percent of the net proceeds from the sale to pay out a special dividend of 7 Hong Kong dollars a share to its shareholders. Li's flagship group, Cheung Kong Holdings, controls 52 percent of Hutchison, so it is expected to pocket about \$2 billion in dividend payments, which are tax-free in Hong Kong.

Li, whom Forbes ranks as the 20th-richest person in the world with a net worth of \$31 billion, had considered a dual listing for Watson that analysts expected would be one of the world's biggest initial public offerings of the year. But the billionaire's recent efforts to divest his company of other businesses by sell-

ing them outright or spinning them off in stock market listings were met with a lukewarm reception. Investors appear to have grown wary of diving in when Li, renowned locally as an asset trader, is selling.

In January, Hong Kong Electric Investments, also owned by Li, priced its Hong Kong IPO at the bottom of the marketed range, raising 24.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$3.1 billion). The deal had been downsized from earlier estimates of as much as nearly \$6 billion because of a lackluster reception from investors during the preliminary marketing phase, and the shares are 10 percent below their offering price.

By forgoing an IPO of Watson in favor of selling a strategic stake to Temasek, Li has simultaneously avoided the risk of having another listing underperform, allied himself with a deep-pocketed supporter and locked in a strong valuation for the retail business.

The valuation of Watson implied by the deal is equal to about 40 percent of Hutchison's market capitalization - for a retail business that accounted for only 18 percent of Hutchison's 65 billion Hong Kong dollars in pretax earnings last year.

"We are pleased to have Temasek, a renowned international investor, as our long-term partner," Hutchison's group managing director, Canning Fok, said on Friday in a statement. □

HTC Woes: Not the Best Way to Sell a Smartphone

DAVID SEGAL

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As HTC readied a new version of its flagship smartphone, it planned for many challenges. It didn't know that one of them would be Roshan Jamkatel, a teenager from Schaumburg, Ill. On March 2, Roshan - a self-described prankster - turned up on YouTube offering a hands-on, guided tour of the sequel to HTC's highest-profile product, the One. The world's first glimpse of the device was scheduled for this Tuesday, at the sort of orchestrated reveal that has become the industry standard, with product demonstrations, plenty of video-screen close-ups and a crowd to give the proceedings a sense of moment. Locations in New York City and London were booked for the occasion.

But Roshan upstaged this show with a rambling, mumbly critique that was posted for all the world to see. (The video was up, then taken down, then resurrected on a batch of Android fan sites and now is much harder to find.) Forget stagecraft. The phone was placed on what appears to be Roshan's outer-space-themed bedspread, and his monologue was sprinkled with bland endorsements like, "The build design of this phone is really nice," and "This camera, I give it a 9 - no, an 8.7."

You imagine that after watching this sneak peek, HTC emitted a sound similar to the whup-whup-whup that Curly of the Three Stooges made whenever Moe poked him in the eyes. But publicly, the only sign of outrage was a message from HTC's senior global online communications manager, Jeff Gordon, to Roshan's Twitter account. "It's not going to be a good week for you, my friend," Gordon wrote.

"It's a fake phone," Roshan tweeted back.

"We have the IMEI and all the other info," replied Gordon, referring to the unique identifiers given to each device. "We'll be in touch." Gordon would not com-

ment about this exchange, and Roshan did not respond to a message left on his cellphone. But it was only the most notable leak of many that have bedeviled the run-up to the official introduction of the phone, which might be called the All New One. The leaks have included photographs, performance specs, downloadable versions of wallpapers and ringtones, a look at a new smart cover, an ad explain-

ing the new dual-lens camera and what is apparently a sales guide for retailers. ("Load up the camera and show the customer how they can take a selfie in the new Selfie mode.") As a final indignity, one of the phones was sold on eBay for about \$500. So much for the element of surprise. These are just the latest setbacks for HTC, a company based in Taiwan that as recently as 2011 sold more smartphones in the United States than any other maker, according to the research firm Canalsys. Since then, shares of HTC have plunged almost 90 percent, shrinking its market capitalization to \$4 bil-

lion from \$33 billion. HTC's biggest problem is its mightiest foe, Samsung, which last year spent \$14 billion on advertising - about the same as the GDP of Iceland. HTC posted its first-ever operating loss in the third quarter of 2013, after which ABI Research, a consulting firm, said that once such handset companies become unprofitable, only 10 percent can be expected to survive the next two years.

wrote, "You could quibble with the software overlays, but it would be hard to imagine a more impressive piece of phone hardware."

It isn't enough, though, to design a great smartphone. You also need to sell it, and when your main rival is blanketing the planet with ads, your marketing strategy had better delight and astound.

HTC's did neither.

"The most important thing is communication, and we

After a pause, an aide to his right holds up a business card bearing the company's logo.

"HTC," he says to the befuddled executives. "It's anything you want it to be." What follows is a random series of h.t.c.-initiated tableaux: a hipster troll car-wash, a hot-tea catapult, a Hungarian tuba concert. The ad was reportedly the start of a two-year, \$1 billion campaign. Within HTC, it was widely considered a



An undated handout screengrab of a video comparing HTC phones, posted to YouTube, with a guided tour provided by Roshan Jamkatel. In a brutal global business, marketing missteps inflict much pain.

(Handout via The New York Times)

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Typically, manufacturers like HTC crater because their products stink. But HTC's downward spiral has distressed plenty of phone geeks who think it makes the best devices on the market. The One, released in 2013, earned the "Smartphone of the Year" title at the Mobile World Congress, held in Barcelona in February, and was only the third phone to win a five-star review from TechRadar. A critic at the site said the phone "is closing in on flawless." A reviewer at AnandTech said, "The One is without a doubt the best Android smartphone I've ever used." And David Pogue, the former tech critic at The New York Times,

didn't communicate with our end users well last year," said Cher Wang, HTC's co-founder and chairwoman, in a telephone interview Wednesday. "We're going to do it better this year."

Among the company's 2013 misfires was an extravagant and daring two-minute ad starring Robert Downey Jr., which was first shown in August.

Downey plays a swaggering marketing genius who emerges from a helicopter, a briefcase chained to one hand, and is ushered into a room full of executives to explain how HTC should position itself.

"Humongous tinfoil catamaran," he says, cryptically.

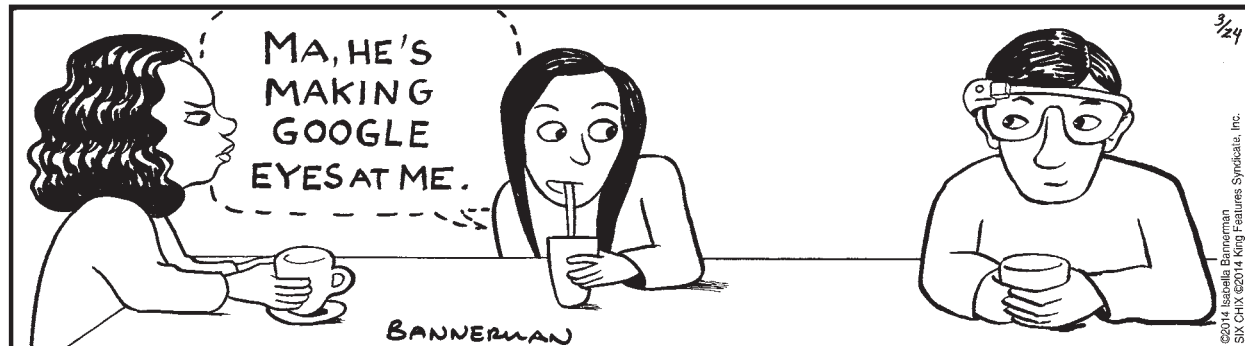
letdown.

"We were told that this ad was going to save the company," said a former employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not want to antagonize onetime colleagues. "Then we saw the ad." Wang said the ad's mixed reception was fine with her. "Some people really loved it; some people didn't understand it," she said. "No matter what, people were talking about HTC, and that was the purpose." Analysts also say that some of HTC's other smartphones were mediocre, and a few weren't updated with the latest version of Android until long after Google released it.

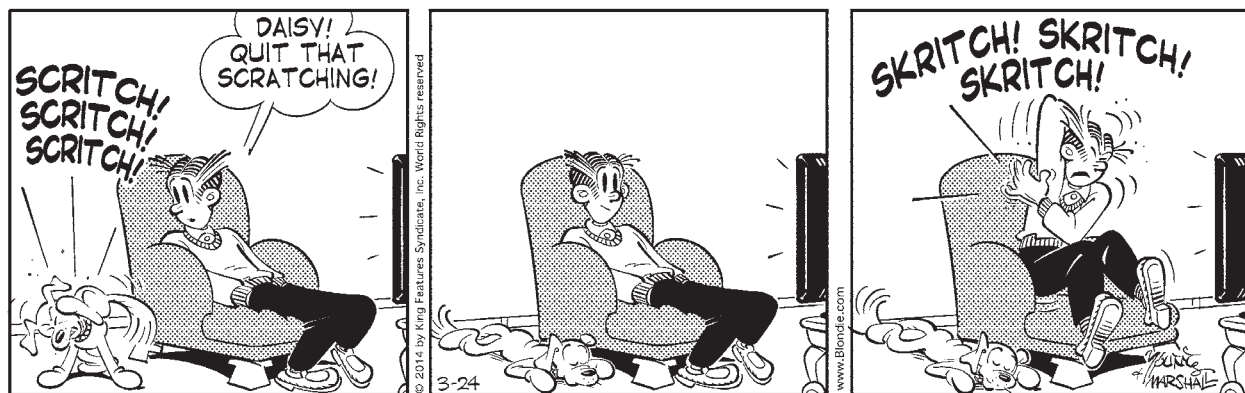
Mutts



6 Chix



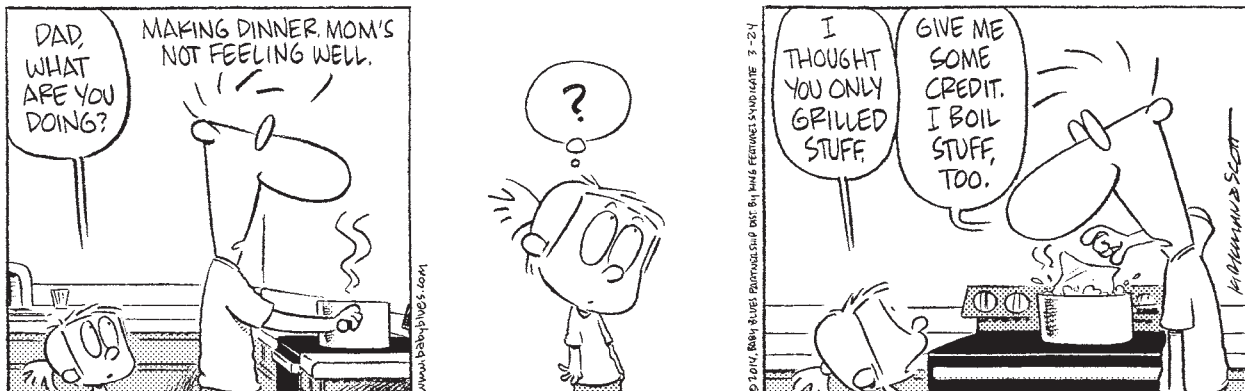
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4					1	3		8
	2		7	3		4	1	
					5			2
	6	7		9	3			
		4		7		8		
			6	8		1	9	
6			8					
	1	8		4	7		3	
7		9	3					5

Difficulty Level ★

3/24

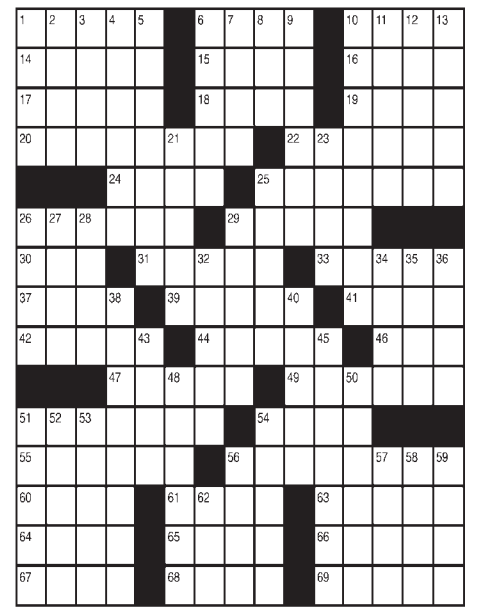
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

5	2	1	6	8	7	3	9	4
3	6	9	4	2	1	5	8	7
4	8	7	9	5	3	6	2	1
2	9	4	5	6	8	7	1	3
6	1	8	3	7	4	2	5	9
7	3	5	2	1	9	8	4	6
1	5	3	7	4	2	9	6	8
8	7	2	1	9	6	4	3	5
9	4	6	8	3	5	1	7	2

ACROSS

- Blazing
- Word in a red octagon
- Morse code marks
- Ambulance's blaring device
- Pea casings
- Canyon sound
- Is familiar with
- Williams or Warhol
- Purina Dog
- Mental decline due to old age
- Brie or Swiss
- Plague carriers
- Clipped sheep
- Populous city in Switzerland
- Sword fights
- Certain vote
- Lisa Marie's dad
- Actress Bo
- Equipment
- Pleasure boat
- City slicker on a ranch
- Colorful flower
- Kilt or mini
- Custard ingredient
- Misplaces
- Goes upward
- Fold marks
- Claim against property
- Frolicked
- Truthfully
- Grows gray
- Zone
- Lake near Reno, Nevada
- Make well
- Gray seabird
- French soup
- A minor and C major, e.g.
- Alimony recipients
- Nuisances



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/24/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

4	Redo an electrical job	52	Scoundrel
5	Force to be a servant	53	board; nail file
6	Quarrels	54	Funds lent
7	Broadway award	55	In this place
8	Peculiar	56	and that
9	Subject for Freud	57	Money, slangily
10	No longer with us	58	Strong urges
11	Yellow shade	59	Reed or Linn
12	"... Were the Days"		
13	Planted		
21	Genoa's nation		
23	on to; saved		
25	Cold rice with raw fish		
26	Very excited		
27	Peepers		
28	Shipshape		
29	Van Dyke and Van Patten		
32	Flower holders		
34	Regrets		
35	On; nervous		
36	Beer barrels		

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3/24/14

Afghanistan presidency alleges foreign hand in hotel attack

KATHY GANNON
Associated Press Writer
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's presidency says its spy agency believes that a foreign intelligence service, and not the country's main militant groups, was behind the attack on a Kabul hotel last week that killed nine people, including two children and four foreigners. A statement from President Hamid Karzai's office said the spy agency briefed Afghanistan's top security officials. In that briefing the agency said: "The attack on the Serena Hotel was a direct attack by an intelligence service outside the country." It did not specify which country was purportedly responsible for the assault, but Afghanistan routinely accuses Pakistan of sending militants across the border to wage attacks. Pakistan did not immediately comment on the allegations. The agency said neither the Taliban nor the Haqqani

group, a network believed responsible for numerous high-profile attacks in Kabul, was even aware the attack was in the offing. Afghanistan's National Security Council was also told that a Pakistani diplomat was spotted filming inside the Serena Hotel "a while ago," seeming to suggest that the incident was connected to Friday's horrific assault in which four gunmen, their small pistols hidden in their shoes, slipped passed the hotel security. Once inside the hotel, they opened fire inside a restaurant and shot people at point blank range, including two small children and their parents. A senior reporter of Agence France-Presse, Sardar Ahmad, died in the rampage along with his wife and two young children. His infant son is in critical condition in a Kabul hospital with several bullet wounds. Two Canadians, an American, a national of Paraguay and a fifth Afghan were also among the dead.

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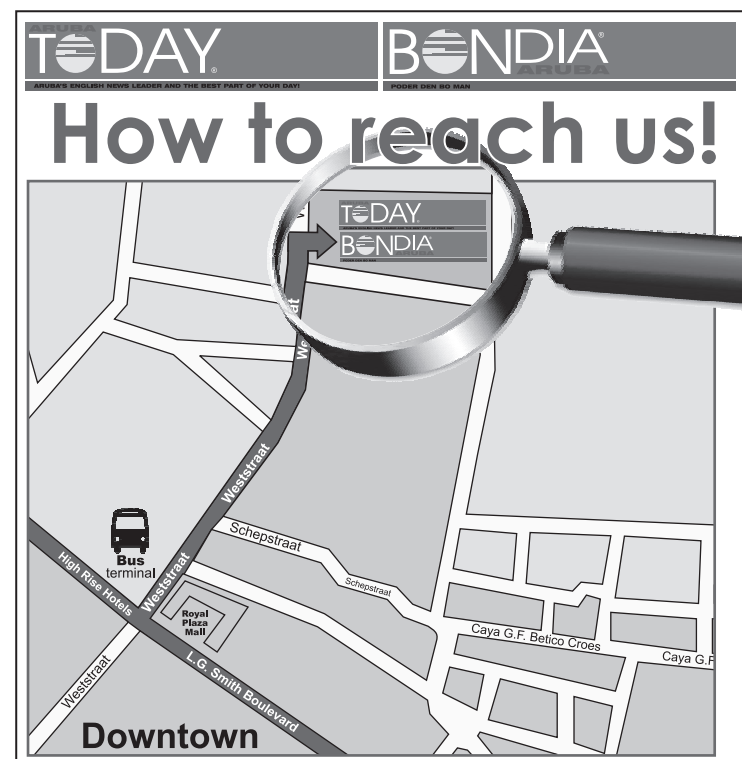
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Toilet tech fair tackles global sanitation woes

KATY DAIGLE

AP Environment Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — Who would have expected a toilet to one day filter water, charge a cellphone or create charcoal to combat climate change?

These are lofty ambitions beyond what most of the world's 2.5 billion people with no access to modern sanitation would expect. Yet, scientists and toilet innovators around the world say these are exactly the sort of goals needed to improve global public health amid challenges such as poverty, water scarcity and urban growth.

Scientists who accepted the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's challenge to reinvent the toilet showcased their inventions in the Indian capital Saturday. The primary goal: to sanitize waste, use minimal water or electricity, and produce a usable product at low cost.

The World Bank estimates the annual global cost of poor sanitation at \$260 billion, including loss of life, missed work, medical bills and other related factors. India alone accounts for \$54 billion - more than the entire GDP of Kenya or Costa Rica.

India is by far the worst culprit, with more than 640 million people defecating in the open and producing a stunning 72,000 tons of human waste each day - the equivalent weight of almost 10 Eiffel Towers or 1,800 humpback whales.

Pooping in public is so acceptable that many Indians will do it on sidewalks or in open fields. Gaze out the window of any Indian train and face a line of bare bottoms doing their business on the tracks. Meanwhile, diarrheal diseases



In this Friday, March 21, 2014 photo, an exhibitor from Loughborough University demonstrates the use of a toilet during Reinvent The Toilet Fair in New Delhi, India. Associated Press

kill 700,000 children every year, most of which could have been prevented with better sanitation.

"In the West, such things are a nuisance, but people don't lose their lives," said Christopher Elias, president

launched a \$1.6 billion program to help. But building sanitation systems in developing countries is not easy. Flush toilets are not always an option. Many poor communities live in water-stressed areas. Others lack

sity in the U.K.

The designs are mostly funded by Gates Foundation grants and in various stages of development, though others not created as part of the Gates challenge were also exhibiting on Saturday.

Some toilets collapsed neatly for easy portability into music festivals, disaster zones or illegal slums. One emptied into pits populated by waste-munching cockroaches and worms.



In this Friday, March 21, 2014 photo, an exhibitor demonstrates the use of a toilet tap where water is recycled and reused, during Reinvent The Toilet Fair in New Delhi, India. Associated Press

of global development at the Gates Foundation. "People don't immediately realize the damage done by infections coming from human waste."

India has been encouraging rural communities to build toilets, and last year

links to sewage pipes or treatment plants.

To be successful, scientists said, the designs being exhibited at Saturday's Toilet Fair had to go beyond treating urine and feces as undesirable waste, and recognize them as profit-generating resources for electricity, fertilizer or fuel.

"Traditionally, people have gone into communities and said, 'Let's dig you a pit.' That's seen as condescension, a token that isn't very helpful. After all, who is going to clean that pit?" said M. Sohail, professor of sustainable infrastructure at Loughborough Univer-

Another team from the University of Colorado, Boulder, brought a system concentrating solar power through fiber optic cables to heat waste to about 300 degrees Celsius. Aside from killing pathogens, the process creates a charcoal-like product called biochar useful as cooking fuel or fertilizer.

"At the core are really interesting scientific principles, so translating this into scientific advances that people can relate to is really exciting," said one of the project leaders, Karl Linden, professor of environmental engineering in Boulder. "Biochar is an important subject for scientists at the moment, since it can be used to sequester carbon in the soil for 1,000 years or more."

A team from Beijing Sunybreeze Technologies Inc. also brought a solar-biochar system, but with the solar panels heating air that will dry sludgy human waste into nuggets that are then heated further under low-oxygen conditions to create biochar.

"We are trying to build a system simple enough to be fixed in the village,"



In this Friday, March 21, 2014 photo, an exhibitor displays a Biochar, a charcoal-like product made from human waste, used as cooking fuel or fertilizer, at the Reinvent The Toilet Fair in New Delhi, India. Associated Press

One Washington-based company, Janicki Industries, designed a power plant that could feed off the waste from a small city to produce 150 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power thousands of homes. The University of the West of England, Bristol, showcased a urine-powered fuel cell to charge cellphones overnight.

technical adviser John Keating said.

One company from the southern Indian state of Kerala was not as concerned with providing toilets as with cleaning them. Toilets are more common in Kerala than they are in much of the country, but no one wants to clean them, said Bincy Baby of Eram Scientific Solutions. □

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Teen sci-fi franchise 'Divergent' debuts with \$56M

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — To go with "Twilight" and "The Hunger Games," Lionsgate now has a trio of young-adult franchises with the box-office leading "Divergent."

The teen science-fiction thriller starring Shailene Woodley debuted with \$56 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The opening, while less than some anticipated, launches Lionsgate's third franchise built on young-adult best-sellers. With an audience 59 percent female and half under the age of 25, "Divergent" lured young moviegoers with another film targeting teenage girls with dystopian drama and an upcoming star. "Divergent," though, fell well short of its forerunners: "Twilight" opened with \$69.6 million in 2008, and "The Hunger Games" began with \$152.5 million in 2012.

Richie Fay, president of domestic distribution for Lionsgate, called it "a great beginning for another franchise for the company." A sequel is already in the works.

"The key to the success of these franchises is finding the difference and marketing it," said Fay. "It's not easy. And I think we're doing it better than anyone else right now, frankly."

In the rush to adapt popular young-adult fiction, Lionsgate has succeeded where many others have floundered. "Divergent," made with a budget of \$85 million from Veronica Roth's best-sellers, follows less stellar results from youth-focused films like "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones," "Vampire Academy" and "Beautiful Creatures."

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, calls the "Divergent" debut a "three-peat" for Lionsgate in a challenging genre that defies "cookie-cutter, assembly line" development. "They make it look easy," says Dergarabedian. "You're chasing probably the most fickle audi-

ence in the world. They can change their minds on what's cool in the blink of an eye."

Disney's Muppets sequel "Muppets Most Wanted," with Ricky Gervais and Tina Fey, fared poorly, earning just \$16.5 million over the weekend. "The Muppets," opened notably better with \$29.2 million in 2011, benefiting from the high-profile reboot starring and co-written by Jason Segal. Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney, acknowledged the result was disappointing and somewhat "head-scratching" considering advance tracking had suggested "Muppets Most Wanted" would draw bigger crowds.

"There certainly was something in the last Muppets — not having anything available for fans for a while — that satisfied pent up demand that we didn't have the benefit of this time around," Hollis said.

The family film market was also more competitive than expected, as 20th Century Fox's animated "Mr. Peabody and Sherman" has held up better than anticipated. In its third week of release, the film — tops at the box office last weekend — slid to third with \$11.7 million.

Studios often seek out late March release dates for family-friendly movies to benefit from spring break vacations. So "Muppets Most Wanted," made for \$50 million, could still eke out more at the box office. The surprise of the weekend was the strong performance of the independently released "God's Not Dead," made to appeal specifically to faith-based audiences. It came in fifth with \$8.6 million, despite playing on just 780 screens. The performance of "God's Not Dead" further proves the strong faith-based market for movies, one historically underserved before the runaway success of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Next week, Paramount Pictures' "Noah," directed by Darren Aronofsky and starring Russell Crowe, will attempt to cross over to



This photo released by Summit Entertainment, LLC shows Maggie Q, left, as Tori and Shailene Woodley as Beatrice "Tris" Prior, in the film, "Divergent." The film releases Friday, March 21, 2014.

Associated Press

mainstream audiences with a Bible tale. Opening early in Mexico and South Korea, "Noah" got off to a

strong start overseas, earning \$14 million.

Expanding from 66 to 304 screens, Wes Anderson's

European caper "Grand Budapest Hotel" continued to pack theaters in limited release. □

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Colum McCann publishes short story

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Colum McCann, the prize-winning novelist, has rediscovered his fondness for short stories.

Best known for "Let the Great World Spin," McCann has just released the story "Gone" through the online publisher and subscription service Byliner. It's his first short story in a decade, he explained during a recent telephone interview, and he enjoyed the experience so much he wants to publish a book of stories.

The author said he started "Gone" after completing the novel "Transatlantic," which came out last year. "Part of it was that I was kind of exhausted after 'Transatlantic' and wanted to change the temperature and take some pressure off," he says. "Also, I had been traveling a lot and a short story is easier to deal with when you're traveling."

"Gone" is a dark and surprising tale about a translator and single mother, Rebecca Marcus, living on the west coast of Ireland with her 13-year-old son,

Tomas, an adoptee from Russia who was born deaf. It's the holiday season, and one morning Rebecca awakes and discovers Tomas is missing, along with the wetsuit she just gave him for Christmas.



This Nov. 18, 2009 file photo shows Colum McCann, winner of the 2009 National Book Award for Fiction for his book "Let the Great World Spin", at the National Book Awards in New York.

Associated Press

She alerts the police, and her ex-husband, and confronts questions about her life that will remain long after the search ends.

McCann, the father of three children, said he

began the story with the idea of a parent and son, but soon realized the boy would disappear. While awaiting news about Tomas, Rebecca thinks of a novella by an Arab-Israeli author that she translated,

liminal fears and all your aches and pains go into the characters," McCann says. "I think you sort of settle more deeply into a character like Rebecca than you would if you weren't a parent. I think every parent has had that moment, even if it's just for five minutes."

McCann, 49, says he chose to work with Byliner because he wanted to experiment with the digital format. He teaches fiction at Hunter College in Manhattan and wonders when a student, a "young James Joyce," will come along "and revolutionize literature from within" by completing a story best told through the Internet.

The author acknowledges that he's unlikely to pull that off himself. "Gone," he observes, is more old-fashioned and straightforward than his longer fiction, more "plot-driven." McCann also says he doesn't read e-books.

"For now, I still prefer turning the pages," he says. "I'm on my computer all day long and I kind of like breaking away in the afternoon and sitting down to read a book." □

'Homeland' actor James Rebhorn dies at 65



In this Nov. 4, 2009 file photo, actor James Rebhorn attends the premiere of "The Box", in New York.

Associated Press

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — James Rebhorn, the prolific character actor whose credits included "Homeland," "Scent of a Woman" and "My Cousin Vinny," has died. He was 65. Rebhorn's agent, Dianne Busch, said Sunday that the actor died Friday at his home in South Orange, New Jersey, after a long battle with skin cancer. Busch said Rebhorn was diagnosed with melanoma in 1992 but managed to work until the last month. In five decades of television and film work, Rebhorn amassed more than 100 credits, ranging from a shipping magnate in the Matt Damon film "The Talented Mr. Ripley" to the prosecutor in the series finale of the TV comedy "Seinfeld," in which he famously sent the group to jail. The lanky but piercing Rebhorn, raised a Lutheran in Indiana, often played astringent authorities, like the headmaster in "Scent of a Woman" or the Secretary of Defense in "Independence Day." On Showtime's "Homeland," he played the father of Claire Danes' CIA officer Carrie Mathison. He also had a recurring role on the USA Network series "White Collar" playing the head of an FBI white-collar crime unit. Other credits of the Philadelphia-born Rebhorn, who received his masters in acting from Columbia University, include "The Game," "Real Steel," "Law & Order," "Carlito's Way" and "Meet the Parents." □

Aretha Franklin celebrates birthday with Denzel

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The guys love Aretha Franklin: Denzel Washington helped the Queen of Soul celebrate her 72nd birthday in style, and Andre 3000 and Babyface are working on new music for the icon.

Franklin held an exclusive and small party Saturday in New York City for her birthday, which is on Tuesday. Washington entered the Ritz-Carlton Hotel quietly, though the crowd got excited after realizing it was the Oscar winner under a baseball cap. Franklin thanked the actor for attending. Just hours earlier, she saw him onstage in the Broadway play, "A Raisin

In the Sun." Her longtime musical collaborator, Clive Davis, also attended.

The singer was all smiles at the event. She said in an interview that she's working on new music with rapper Andre 3000 and singer-songwriter Babyface.

"Babyface is working on the tracks," she said.

He's also guest starring with Toni Braxton in the Broadway musical "After Midnight," which celebrates Duke Ellington's years at the Cotton Club nightclub in Harlem. Their stints in the show run through March 30. "So, I'm just waiting for him to finish that so he can finish my tracks please," Franklin said.

"And I think Andre 2000 —



From left, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Clive Davis, Aretha Franklin and Denzel Washington attend Aretha's 72nd birthday celebration on Saturday, March 22, 2014 in New York.

Associated Press

is it two or three? 3000 is going to be doing some of the tracks with him."

When asked what she wants for her birthday, Franklin said. "I'm looking for a record deal for my granddaughter Victorie, and my son Kecal." They both performed recently at the BET Honors special, which paid tribute to

Franklin.

"I would be happy with that," she said.

Earlier this month, Franklin performed at the White House alongside Patti LaBelle, Jill Scott and other soul singers.

"What a shoutin' good time we had," she exclaimed. "The White House is still rocking right now!" □

Going Home Again



DAVID BROOKS

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VANCOUVER, British Columbia - The TED conference is dedicated to innovation. Most of the people who give TED talks are working on some creative project: to invent new bionic limbs for amputees, new telescopes, new fusion reactors or new protest movements to reduce the power of money in politics.

The speakers generally live in hope and have the audacity of the technologist. Naturally enough, they believe fervently in their projects.

"This will change everything!" they tell the crowds.

And there's a certain suspension of disbelief as audiences get swept up in the fervor and feel themselves delightedly on the cutting edge.

The future will be insanely great. Everything will change at the speed of Moore's Law.

But at this year's TED conference, which was held in Vancouver, the rock star Sting got onstage and gave a presentation that had a different feel. He talked about his rise to stardom and then about a period in middle age when he was unable to write any new songs. The muse abandoned him, he said - for days, then weeks, then months, then years.

But then he went back and started thinking about his childhood in the north of England. He'd lived on a street that led down to a shipyard where some of the world's largest ocean-going vessels were built.

Most of us have an urge, maybe more as we age, to circle back to the past and touch the places and things of childhood. When Sting did this, his creativity was reborn. Songs exploded from his head.

At TED, he sang some of those songs about that shipyard. He sang about the characters he remembers and his desire to get away from a life in that yard. These were songs from his musical "The Last Ship," which he's performed at The Public Theater and which is expected to go to Broadway in the fall.

Most TED talks are about the future, but Sting's was about going into the past.

The difference between the two modes of thinking stood in stark contrast. In the first place, it was clear how much richer historical consciousness is than future vision.

When we think about the future, we don't think about the texture and the tensions, the particular smells, shapes, conflicts - the dents in the floorboards. But Sting's songs were about unique and unlikely individuals and life as it really is, as a constant process of bending hard iron.

Historical consciousness has a fullness of paradox that future imagination cannot match. When we think of the past, we think about the things that seemed bad at the time but turned out to be good in the long run. We think about the little things that seemed inconsequential in the moment but made all the difference.

Then it was obvious how regenerating going home again can be. Sting, like most people who do this, wasn't going back to live in the past; he was circling back and coming forward.

Going back is a creative process. The events of childhood are like the Hebrew alphabet; the vowels are missing, and the older self has to make sense of them. Robert Frost's famous poem about the two paths diverging in the woods isn't only about the two paths.

It also describes how older people go back in memory and impose narrative order on choices that didn't seem so clear at the time.

The person going back home has to invent a coherent tradition out of discrete moments and tease out future implications. He has to see the world with two sets of eyes: the eyes of his own childhood self and the eyes of his adult self.

He has to circle back deeper inside and see parts of himself that were more exposed then than now. No wonder the process of going home again can be so catalyzing.

The process of going home is also reorienting. Life has a way of blowing you off course. People have a way of forgetting what they originally set out to do. Going back means recapturing the original aspirations. That's one reason Jews go back to Exodus every year.

It's why Augustine went back during a moment of spiritual crisis and wrote a book about his original conversion. Heck, it's why Miranda Lambert performs "The House That Built Me" - to remind herself of the love of music that preceded the trappings of stardom.

Sting's appearance at TED was a nice reminder of how important it is to ground future vision in historical consciousness. Some of the TED speakers seemed hopeful and creative, but painfully and maybe necessarily naïve.

Sting's talk was a reminder to go forward with a backward glance, to go one layer down into self and then after self-confrontation, to leap forward out of self.

History is filled with revivals, led by people who were reinvigorated for the future by a reckoning with the past. □



Conditioning and The Timidity Trap



PAUL KRUGMAN

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There don't seem to be any major economic crises underway right this moment, and policymakers in many places are patting themselves on the back. In Europe, for example, they're crowing about Spain's recovery: The country seems set to grow at least twice as fast this year as previously forecast.

Unfortunately, that means growth of 1 percent, versus 0.5 percent, in a deeply depressed economy with 55 percent youth unemployment. The fact that this can be considered good news just goes to show how accustomed we've grown to terrible economic conditions. We're doing worse than anyone could have imagined a few years ago, yet people seem increasingly to be accepting this miserable situation as the new normal.

How did this happen? There were multiple reasons, of course. But I've been thinking about this question a lot lately, in part because I've been asked to discuss a new assessment of Japan's efforts to break out of its deflation trap. And I'd argue that an important source of failure was what I've taken to calling the timidity trap - the consistent tendency of policy makers who have the right ideas in principle to go for half-measures in practice, and the way this timid-

ity ends up backfiring, politically and even economically.

In other words, Yeats had it right: The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.

About the worst: If you've been following economic debates these past few years, you know that both the United States and Europe have powerful pain caucuses - influential groups fiercely opposed to any policy that might put the unemployed back to work. There are some important differences between the U.S. and European pain caucuses, but both now have truly impressive track records of being always wrong, never in doubt.

Thus, in the United States, we have a faction both on Wall Street and in Congress that has spent five years and more issuing lurid warnings about runaway inflation and soaring interest rates. You might think that the failure of any of these dire predictions to come true would inspire some second thoughts, but, after all these years, the same people are still being invited to testify, and are still saying the same things.

Meanwhile, in Europe, four years have passed since the Continent turned to harsh austerity programs. The architects of these programs told us not to worry about adverse impacts on jobs and growth - the economic effects would be positive, because austerity would inspire confidence. Needless to say, the confidence fairy never appeared, and the economic and social price has been immense. But no matter: All the serious people say that the beatings must continue until morale improves.

So what has been the response of the good guys?

For there are good guys out there, people who haven't bought into the notion that nothing can or should be done about mass unemployment. The Obama administration's heart - or, at any rate, its economic model - is in the right place. The Federal Re-

serve has pushed back against the springtime-for-Weimar, inflation-is-coming crowd. The International Monetary Fund has put out research debunking claims that austerity is painless. But these good guys never seem willing to go all-in on their beliefs.

The classic example is the Obama stimulus, which was obviously underpowered given the economy's dire straits. That's not 20/20 hindsight. Some of us warned right from the beginning that the plan would be inadequate - and that because it was being oversold, the persistence of high unemployment would end up discrediting the whole idea of stimulus in the public mind. And so it proved.

What's not as well known is that the Fed has, in its own way, done the same thing. From the start, monetary officials ruled out the kinds of monetary policies most likely to work - in particular, anything that might signal a willingness to tolerate somewhat higher inflation, at least temporarily. As a result, the policies they have followed have fallen short of hopes, and ended up leaving the impression that nothing much can be done.

And the same may be true even in Japan - the case that motivated this article. Japan has made a radical break with past policies, finally adopting the kind of aggressive monetary stimulus Western economists have been urging for 15 years and more. Yet there's still a diffidence about the whole business, a tendency to set things like inflation targets lower than the situation really demands. And this increases the risk that Japan will fail to achieve "liftoff" - that the boost it gets from the new policies won't be enough to really break free from deflation.

You might ask why the good guys have been so timid, the bad guys so self-confident. I suspect that the answer has a lot to do with class interests. But that will have to be a subject for another column. □

Tonight at 8PM at Palm Beach Plaza Mall:

Aruba's Majestic Carnival Season Comes To Life!



PALM BEACH - Palm Beach Plaza Mall new majestic carnival season has started at Aruba's largest mall. The Aruba Carnival is a thrilling show of over-the-top pagentry, produced by thousands and delighting and uniting the entire country. Here's the scoop on how it began. Carnival was born in 1954, as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an

Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there. Tonight at 8PM, Palm Beach Plaza Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can experience for yourself the taste of Aruba's Carnival culture with the opportunity to take pictures with the majestic carnival dancers with carnival costumes. Come and enjoy the show! □

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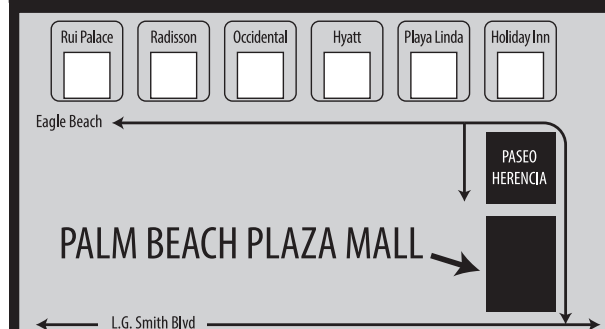
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